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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After Friday's hearing, do you support Kilili's HR 1466 to grant status to certain groups of people in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Turned Tables

The swift decline of British media titan Rebekah Brooks.

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'Harry Potter' takes down Batman and pirates with a $168.6M weekend.

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Only 53 pct. of school counselors highly qualified. PAGE 2
Man allegedly tried to fly to L.A. using fake papers. PAGE 3

Can frequent-flier programs work for you?

By SAMANTHA BOMKAMP and SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP AIRLINES WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—They lure millions of travelers each year with the promise of free vacations, first-class upgrades and a chance to cut the security line. But are frequent-flier programs really worthwhile?

Miles programs sound simple enough. Passengers typically earn one mile or point for every mile flown. Those miles can be redeemed for free trips, usually starting at 25,000 miles for a domestic, round-trip flight.

Loyalists say not participating is like leaving free money on the table. Free flights are the most obvious perk. Miles can also be traded in for things like magazine subscriptions.

Others argue the programs are difficult to maintain and aren't of much value to travelers who fly only once or twice a year. And they say there's no guarantee of getting the flight you want.

It's been 30 years since the first frequent-flier program was created. Today, airlines make more than $4 billion a year combined from program partnerships—topping the reported revenue from baggage fees. There are an estimated 90 million U.S. frequent-flier members with 2 trillion unused miles.

Here, Associated Press airlines writers Samantha Bomkamp and Scott Mayerowitz argue the programs' worth:

Mayerowitz: It's a no-brainer. Trav-

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Fitial, Calvo in talks on Marianas reunification

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial made a surprise announcement when he told members of a subcommittee hearing in Washington, D.C. that he and Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo are in serious discussions about reuniting the Marianas.

Back home, local leaders had mixed reactions to the governor's seemingly out of the blue pronouncement during Friday's public hearing on Public Law 110-229 or the 2008 Consolidated Natural Resources Act and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 1466.

"Gov. Calvo and I have pledged to work together to reunify the Marianas.

See **FITIAL** on **Page 4**

HR 1466 makes strange bedfellows

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Politics indeed makes strange bedfellows and this couldn't be more true in the case of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's controversial H.R. 1466 now pending at the U.S. House of Representatives.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and one his staunchest critics, human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, are both opposing the measure, which seeks to provide a "CNMI-only" status to a select group of people in the CNMI.

Speaking to the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs in a public hearing Friday, Fitial said he is strongly opposed to extending improved status to parents of U.S. citizen children.

Aside from being a large-scale am-

See **HR 1466** on **Page 4**

HOUSE MILESTONE

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), second from right, is sworn in by acting governor Eloy S. Inos, right, during a House of Representatives special session yesterday at the lower chamber. Joining Maratita in the ceremony are, from left, House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (Rep-Saipan), Maratita's son Joshua, daughter Janina, son John, and Maratita's mother Maria Ulloa Maratita. With her replacing the now retired representative Diego T. Benavente, it marks the first time in CNMI history that three women lawmakers are serving the House. MARK RABAGO

See story on Page 3

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Local

AS OF JULY 13, 2011:

Only 53 pct. of school counselors highly qualified

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Only a little over half of school counselors in public schools have so far complied with the requirements of the Board of Education to become highly qualified.

In a presentation to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan during a 30-minute conference call last Wednesday, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan reported that 53 percent of current school counselors are highly qualified for the job.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Public School System employs 32 counselors. Like teachers and administrators, they too are required to meet the federal mandate of being highly qualified by the July 31, 2011, deadline.

Sablan

In an early interview with Sablan, she told *Saipan Tribune* that non-certified counselors will need to step down from their post if they fail to complete the requirements after the end of this month. They can go back to the position where they are certified, such as classroom teachers.

The number of certified counselors is expected to go up within the month because many counselors have taken the test in June and awaiting the results of the examination.

Still based on the commissioner's July 13 report, 83 percent of classroom teachers in public schools are now considered highly qualified after satisfying the requirements: having a degree, valid certifications, and passing the Praxis tests. The school system had 530 teachers when the school year ended last month.

For school administrators, Sablan reported that 90 percent of school principals and 92 percent of vice principals are now highly qualified.

Like school counselors, the number of highly qualified teachers and administrators are expected to increase prior to the deadline this month.

Federal court dismisses petition by deportable man

» Lawyer for petitioner says judge 'misapprehends' case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court dismissed yesterday a court action filed by a deportable Chinese national who claimed he was cheated out of his more than $50,000 investment in the CNMI.

But Stephen C. Woodruff, counsel for petitioner Fu Chen, said the judge misapprehended the petition and that they will appeal or pursue an alternative remedy.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman ruled that the immigration judge's exercise of discretion in Chen's case was "lawful." As such, Wiseman said, Chen's petition for habeas corpus does not "state facts that point to a 'real possibility of constitutional error.'"

"It is therefore dismissed. The Clerk shall close the file," said the judge in a two-page order.

According to the petition, Chen entered the CNMI lawfully and held a long-term business entry permit at least until Dec. 10, 1998. He invested more than $50,000 in the CNMI but was ultimately cheated out of his investment by a local man, Woodruff said.

Woodruff

Chen pursued legal remedies but had difficulty doing so and it is his understanding that the local man passed away before he could realize any recovery of his investment.

Chen then went to Immigration and Customs Enforcement to seek help but instead the Department of Homeland Security initiated removal proceedings against him, Woodruff said.

On April 8, 2011, the immigration judge directed Chen to be removed.

Chen, through Woodruff, recently filed the petition for habeas corpus in federal court. Woodruff argued that Chen's situation is precisely the kind of case that "screams for an exercise of discretion, " yet the DHS and the immigration judge refused to even engage in an exercise of discretion.

On July 6, Wiseman ordered that Chen's removal from the CNMI be stated pending court order.

In dismissing the petition, Wiseman said the legal contention is that the immigration judge failed to exercise her discretion to grant humanitarian parole on the basis of Chen's debt.

Wiseman said the petition indicates that the immigration judge did consider Chen's argument for discretionary relief on the basis of his debt.

"As such, the immigration judge did exercise her discretion, and petitioner is really objecting to that exercise," Wiseman noted.

Woodruff told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Wiseman has the law right but misapprehended Chen's petition. He insists that the exercise of discretion by the immigration judge was never at issue.

"I do not believe immigration judges even have jurisdiction to exercise the type of discretion involved in Mr. Chen's petition," he said.

Woodruff said the duty to exercise discretion arose when Chen presented himself to immigration officers at USCIS Application Support Center and again when he presented himself to immigration officers at ICE in accordance with instructions from USCIS.

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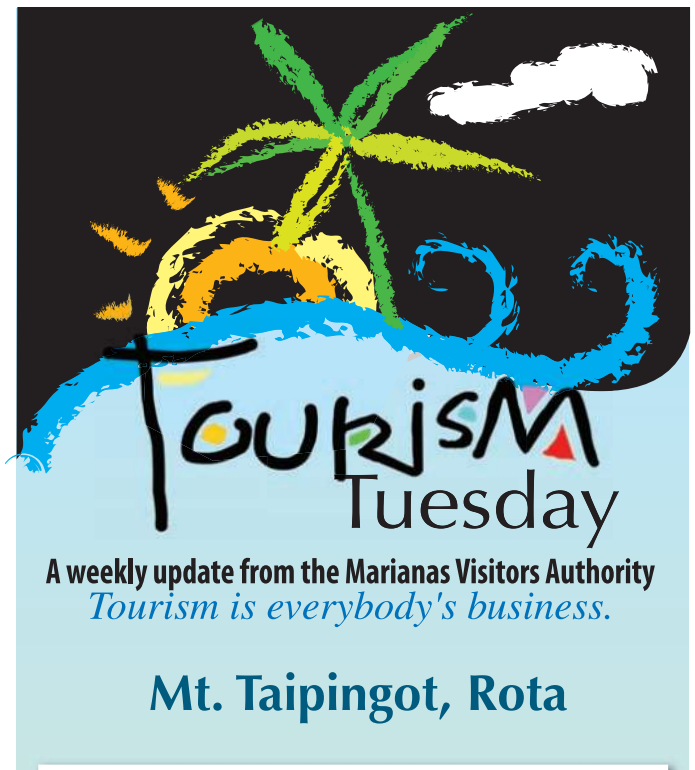

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Mt. Taipingot, Rota

Mt. Taipingot, popularly called **Wedding Cake Mountain** because of its layered shape, is located at the southern end of the Songsong Isthumus, rising to 143m above sea level. According to the Marianas Visitors Guide, historically Mt. Taipingot was used as a natural lighthouse where fires were burned on top of the mountain to guide Spanish galleons on their way to Manila. Chamorros were required to light these fires to ensure that these ships did not inadvertently pass by Rota or Guam during the night.

The waters surrounding Mt. Taipingot are a marine protected area where fishing is not allowed.

In Fiscal Year 2011, 7,348 visitors travelled to Rota, largely from Japan and Guam.

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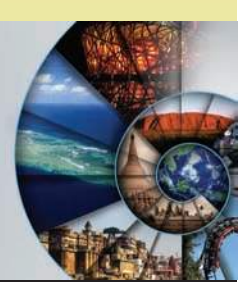

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Janet Maratita is sworn into office

» A first in NMI history: 3 women in the House

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Janet Maratita was sworn into the 17th House of Representatives yesterday in a packed House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

According to Rep. Stanley M. Torres (Ind-Saipan), this marks the first time in CNMI history that three female members of the lower chamber will be serving at the same time.

Maratita (Ind-Saipan) joins Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) as women House lawmakers.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* after her swearing in, Maratita said she will serve the House as an independent.

"I'm not going to align with anyone because I want to work with all of them. I'd rather be an independent," she said.

House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (Rep-Saipan) led everyone in welcoming the 45-year-old Maratita, who replaced the now-retired Diego Benavente as one of six representatives of Precinct 1.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is thrilled and grateful that Maratita was able to accept the appointment.

"We're pleased that she accepted the appointment and we look forward to her working with the other members [of the House of Representatives] and help all of us address existing challenges that we're facing."

Inos said Maratita was a member of the 14th Legislature so this will not be a new territory for her.

"As I understand her quote [when I called her about her appointment] was 'all I need is just a paper and a pencil' and I'm ready to work. I'm glad to hear that," he said.

Work with paddle and sail

Dressed in a fuchia dress with a lei around her neck, Maratita said she's humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to serve once again be a voice at the House.

She pledged to work hard to "paddle and sail in this current rough waters and address the difficult challenges before us."

Maratia, who served in the 14th Legislature, said she will promote revenue-generating measures that will help alleviate the islands' ailing economy

One example of a revenue-generating bill Maratita said she would like to introduce is a bottle recycling bill she originally introduced in the 14th Legislature. It calls for a deposit on bottles so the material wouldn't end up just being dumped in the Marpi landfill. Deposits of unredeemed bottles would go to government coffers, she said.

Maratita said her bottle recycling bill was passed by the House but it died at the Senate after she lost her re-election bid for the 15th Legislature.

Ogumoro said Maratita's addition to the House is a milestone because it marks the first time that three women will be serving in the chamber. She said it is her hope that someday the House will be populated by 50 percent women.

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), for his part, said he is happy to once again be "classmates" with Maratita. Palacios and Maratita came from the same school.

Ray N. Yumul (Rep-Saipan), meanwhile, said she ran alongside Maratita under the green party—an obvious reference to the Covenant Party. He said Maratita will be an asset to the lower chamber because she "will cut to the chase and get things done."

Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said he is already looking forward to Maratita's promise of introducing revenue-generating bills because "it's what we need right now."

Maratita was accompanied at her swearing in by her sons John and Joshua Sablan, her daughter Janina, and mother Maria Ulloa Maratita. Her two other sons, Jake and Jason, are currently in the mainland.

It was the first time a swearing in to replace a member of the House was done ever since former speaker Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas was killed in the same plane crash that took the life of multi-millionaire Larry Hillblom in 1995.

Inos signs 3 bills into law

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos last week signed three bills into law: a measure requiring the use divers-down flags on Saipan, a bill appropriating $9,000 from local license fees for poker and pachinko slot machines on Rota, and legislation banning the air-drying of underwear in, among other places, the tourist district of Garapan.

Inos signed Saipan Local Law 17-11 on July 12 and it calls for the "use of divers-down flag for diving activities on the coastal waters of Saipan."

Authored by Rep. Raphael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan), House Local Bill 17-38, D1 was introduced after the House found it imperative for the safety of divers, fishermen, and boat operators, especially those who frequent the coastal waters of Saipan, to require the use of a divers-down flag.

The law calls for all divers to stay within 100 feet of the divers-down flag on navigational channels and 300 feet of the divers-down flag on all waters other than navigational channels.

Inversely, Saipan Local Law 17-11 requires any vessel—other than law enforcement or rescue vessels—that approaches a divers-down flag to proceed no faster than necessary to maintain headway and steerageway. Violators of the new law would be fined not more than $100.

On July 13, Inos signed Rota Local Law 17-14 "to appropriate $9,000 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines for the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes."

Introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), House Local Bill 17-45, S1 appropriates the $9,000 for 14 dialysis and terminally ill patients for June and part of July 2011 ($8,000), Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation ($500), and for compensation of affected employees under Public Law 17-31 ($500).

House Local Bill 17-40, meanwhile, became Saipan Local Law 17-10 after Inos signed it into law on July 12.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (Rep-Saipan) after hearing complaints that the air-drying of personal articles of clothing on balconies "has a propensity to distract drivers and is an eyesore to tourists that visit our island and… the general public."

The so-called "panty law" now bans "any article of clothing hung outside of a balcony, terrace, porch, deck, or veranda that is within public view of a major arterial or collector road. The activity is also proscribed in tourist-related districts that are zoned as Garapan Core, Garapan East, Beach Road, or Tourist Road.

The law tasked the Zoning Board to promulgate rules and regulations, to include penalty provisions, to enforce the provision. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Federal court dismisses case vs Sawada

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court dismissed yesterday the case against Japanese musician and songwriter Taiji Sawada who died Sunday, three days after he reportedly tried to kill himself in his detention cell.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes ordered the dismissal of the case against the 45-year-old Sawada after the U.S. Attorney's Office notified the court about Sawada's death.

Sawada was facing a charge of interfering with the performance of a flight attendant.

The charge arose from an incident on Monday, July 11, when Sawada allegedly became unruly as the aircraft he was on was about to land at the Saipan International Airport. He allegedly punched the plane's window, kicked the seat in front of him, and assaulted a flight attendant.

Sawada was among the passengers aboard Delta Flight 298. He was in the business class cabin when he reportedly became angry with a female passenger and became violent. The report did not mention what aroused his anger and whether he and the passenger were related.

The following day, July 12, was Sawada's 45th birthday. He spent it inside the Department of Corrections.

On Thursday night, he was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center after he allegedly tried to hang himself using a bed sheet. A public health staff disclosed that Sawada had been on life support at the intensive care unit after he became brain dead.

Saipan Tribune learned that Sawada's family flew to Saipan on Saturday after learning about his suicide attempt. The family made the decision to unhook the life support system. He died Sunday morning.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information regarding the detainee's reported suicide attempt at DOC.

A Japan newspaper reporter told *Saipan Tribune* that Sawada was a famous bass player in Japan.

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Man allegedly tried to fly to L.A. using fake papers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agents arrested at the Saipan International Airport on Friday a Chinese national who allegedly tried to check-in for an outbound flight to Los Angeles, California, via Narita, Japan, using fake documents.

Dongjun Li, 38, was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI Friday afternoon to face a charge of committing immigration document fraud.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Q. Hayes appointed attorney Mark Scoggins to represent Li.

During his detention hearing yesterday, Li was found to be a flight risk. Hayes ordered his continued detention and remanded him to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The judge, however, allowed Scoggins to file a motion for bail if the defense lawyer has additional information to support Li's temporary release.

ICE special agent Paul C. Akeo Jr. stated in his report that on Friday, Li presented forged parole documents to airline personnel at the airport in order to gain entry into Los Angeles, California, aboard Delta Air Lines flights 287 and 284.

Akeo said that, on Friday at 3:50am, he received a telephone call from U.S. Customs and Border Protection supervisory officer Mark Layman about an individual who presented a Form I-512 and other documents to Delta Air Lines personnel. Form I-512 is an authorization for parole of an alien into the United States.

The individual, who was later identified as Li, allegedly attempted to check-in for an outbound flight to Los Angeles via Narita.

Akeo said that when he and another special agent arrived at the airport at 4:15am that same day, Layman gave him the original documents that Li had presented to Delta personnel.

Akeo said the documents included a U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service form I-512; an original correspondence dated July 11, 2011, from the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Neutralization [sic] Service; white and blue copies of a CNMI application for marriage license and record; and Dongjun Li's original PRC passport number.

Akeo quoted Layman as saying that Delta personnel contacted Customs and Border Protection after Li handed over the suspect documents in an attempt to check-in.

Akeo said he and the other special agent reviewed Li's papers and determined that the Form I-512 and accompanying documents were fraudulent.

Akeo noted that the form, among other things, appeared to bear mismatched fonts and signs of alterations by means of erasure and photocopying.

The agents then arrested Li.

Assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum cited a U.S. Probation Office's pre-trial report indicating that Li had claimed to be married to a local woman, yet he could not remember her last name.

McCallum said the defendant, who could not speak English, also possessed a CNMI driver's license that he possibly obtained through fraudulent means.

Scoggins told the court that Li has a valid umbrella permit and promised to appear at all court hearings.

PROGRAMS

From Page 1

elers taking only one or two trips in a year can benefit with minimal hassle and no cost. You won't be upgraded to first class, but there are still plenty of perks. Just one round-trip flight between Washington, D.C., and Orlando, Fla., earns enough miles for a magazine subscription.

Bomkamp: Most travelers don't care about getting a free *Sports Illustrated* or *Entertainment Weekly* in their mailbox. They're lured to the programs by upgrades that are hard to snag and free tickets that can be impossible to redeem. And if they focus too much on racking up miles, they may miss out on cheap flights.

Mayerowitz: Hey, free is free. And loyalty doesn't only pertain to the airlines. Some hotel programs are particularly generous to even the lowest-tiered members, giving away mini-bar credits or free Wi-Fi. With car rental companies, the perk is precious vacation minutes: you can skip the check-in counter and walk straight to a car.

Bomkamp: What's your time worth? With the sheer number and complicated nature of frequent-traveler programs, they're too much trouble to keep track of for too little gain. There are at least a dozen airline programs in the U.S. alone, and more than 20 hotel loyalty plans. Who wants a wallet full of cards and three dozen extra usernames and passwords?

Mayerowitz: Free sites like AwardWallet, MileTracker and Points.com keep track of login information, point balances and provide warnings about expiring points.

Bomkamp: Sure, that helps—unless you have lots of time between tallies. If you travel twice a year like the average American, it would take you at least six years to be eligible for a free flight on most U.S. carriers.

Mayerowitz: There are plenty of ways for those average Americans to earn miles without traveling. Many credit cards offer a generous signup bonus—often large enough for a free domestic flight—and waive the annual fee the first year. For online shoppers, airline and hotel shopping portals allow you to earn points at retailers such as Best Buy, Gap and L.L. Bean. Linking your credit card to a Rewards Network account could get thousands of extra miles just for eating out. Banks such as BankDirect and stockbrokers including TD Ameritrade and Fidelity offer signup bonuses for new accounts.

Bomkamp: Most airline credit cards have higher interest rates and annual fees than traditional cards, making them a lousy deal and not worth the possible "free" trip down the road.

Mayerowitz: I will admit that if you can't pay your credit card bill in full each month, branded cards aren't a good option. You are right; the high interest rates aren't worth the free trips.

Bomkamp: Here's another problem: Miles and points with some airline and hotel programs expire in as little as a year.

Mayerowitz: It's easy to keep miles alive. Even without stepping on a plane. For example, miles with American expire after 18 months of inactivity. But just one 99-cent song purchase at iTunes—though American's shopping portal—keeps your miles active for another 18 months.

Bomkamp: Alright, fine. But good luck redeeming them. A recent industry survey showed that on some of the stingier airlines, passengers were only able to find award tickets on one in every four flights they wanted.

Mayerowitz: Yeah, it's often a pain to redeem miles. But with some advance planning and flexibility on your travel dates you can get a free ticket. And airline partnerships do provide more choices to earn and redeem miles. So if you can't get a seat on Delta to Paris, maybe its partner Air France will have a seat. Maybe.

Bomkamp: See? That's a hassle. I'm just going to search for the cheapest tickets, and spend my spare time watching reruns of "Gilligan's Island."

Mayerowitz: Do what you want. I'll send you a postcard from Hawaii.

FITIAL

From Page 1

I need your support [talking to Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo] also to allow the CNMI to participate in some economic opportunities that are currently prohibited in the Marianas," Fitial told the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs.

Acting Eloy S. Inos said he believes Fitial's pronouncement was his personal view. As for himself, he said he would like to study the reunification issue in greater detail before commenting on it.

"At this point little has been said about the benefits, the pros and cons and so forth, and we need to educate our people. Sure the governor expressed his views and those are his personal views, for the moment. For this thing to ever come to pass by way of official situation it would have to be decided on by the people," Inos said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

At the same time, Inos believes before a referendum is conducted on the issue, an extensive public education effort should first be done not only in the CNMI but in Guam as well.

"It should be decided by the people and it was once decided. But it's not to say that we should not revisit the issue. We're revisiting it and I believe there is resolution at the House of Representatives that allows for that. There's also a bill or resolution in the Guam legislature. So we're moving," he said.

While the Northern Marianas voted for reunification in a referendum on Nov. 4, 1969, Guam voters rejected the proposal.

This early though, Inos said one advantage of a united Marianas is the islands having a stronger voice politically before a bigger institution like the federal government.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Rep-Saipan), meanwhile, said he is always in favor of reunification.

"After all we're one people and unfortunately history divided us. We all have the same culture, our religion over the centuries has pulled us together, and I hope that one day we can all come together because we're actually one people," he said.

The Senate president said he's not at all worried that reunification with Guam will result in the CNMI becoming a minority in such a union.

"It's the same [thing that's] going on in the Northern Marianas. I believe we can find a system that can work. The main thing is we're one people and I think we will have a bigger voice. You have to look at things for the long term like for generations to come. I know that one day we can all come together," Manglona said.

House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (Rep-Saipan) said talks of a CNMI-Guam reunification should be preceded by a roundtable discussion were the advantages and disadvantages of such a setup would be thoroughly examined.

"There's nothing wrong with a dialogue. We voted for and they voted against [it] in 1969. But that's the past already. There's nothing wrong with a discussion and if they agree or they don't agree, at least we closed the discussion," said Cabrera. "We're the same islands. We're the same people. A lot of our people moved to Guam and we want them to be treated fairly. We have to remove all this ill-feelings. Nothing wrong with an open discussion."

A recent survey conducted by students of Northern Marianas College found that majority of respondents on Saipan are against reunifying with Guam, while most of those surveyed on Rota support it.

The results of the study, conducted by the NMC Marianas Reunification Survey Group, showed that, of the 835 surveyed on the two islands, 439 were opposed to reunification with the U.S. territory. This is 52 percent of total respondents. Those in favor of unification totaled 396 or 48 percent of those surveyed. Majority of respondents were Chamorros.

Many of the respondents believe that reunification will mean that CNMI residents will become the minority and Guam has more to gain than the Northern Marianas. Respondents are also convinced that Guam is pushing for reunification because the U.S. territory want some of the political freedom the CNMI currently enjoys with its relationship with the U.S.

The 48 percent who voted in favor of the idea believe that reunification is good for the economy and will help boost declining tourism industry in the Commonwealth. In addition, they said reunification will bring one single entity for both Guam and the CNMI.

HR 1466

From Page 1

nesty for aliens, the governor said that Sablan's bill is a "significant distortion of the U.S. immigration system," extends status to deadbeat parents, those who are unemployed, unemployable, and even with those with a history of illegal employment, and parents with no means of support.

He also scored H.R. 1466 for extending status to parents who have already left the Commonwealth and parents of U.S. citizen children raised elsewhere.

Fitial also contends that the bill "strips away the protections of the federal Administrative Procedures Act by permitting the Department of Homeland Security to promulgate implementing regulations without the customary requirement of issuing them in proposed form and providing for a period within which the affected parties may comment."

The governor added that the bill refers to a definition of "immediate relative" that was in the Commonwealth Code prior to May 2008 but was already struck from the Commonwealth Code by the CNMI Legislature.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who accompanied Fitial to the panel hearing in Washington, D.C., said the governor was glad to have had the opportunity to testify to get his point across and ultimately, for the opportunity to speak in defense of the CNMI's best interests.

"We don't want to see that measure pass as it is written today. As stated in his testimony, Gov. Fitial reiterated that he proposes an H-5 visa within the regular U.S. Immigration system and not any form of special interest-driven pathway to citizenship. The U.S. has long had a system in place to entertain green card or citizenship matters. The governor does not agree that any special motives should be cause to disrespect all other Americans who became Americans the right and prudent way," said Demapan.

Doromal, for her part, is opposing H.R. 1466 for an entirely different reason and criticized early Friday morning's public hearing for the "conspicuous absence" of any advocate or representative from the nonresident worker community on the witness panel.

"Even though nonresidents make up an estimated 80-90 percent of the private workforce and a majority of the CNMI's adult population, their voice at the hearing will remain silent except for written testimony that will be submitted. This fact diminishes the credibility of this hearing and any other hearing where issues regarding nonresidents are discussed and no nonresident workers are invited to testify. It suggests that members of the subcommittee regard the legal nonresident workers as labor units rather than as the essential de facto citizens that they are. It minimizes their importance and vital contributions. It marginalizes their humanity," she said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Doromal believes the hearing was orchestrated to consider only those nonresident workers who have a U.S. spouse or child.

"The other 12,000 nonresident workers were mentioned only to incorrectly address 3,000 as 'illegals,' to claim that many stole jobs, to suggest that they diminished the culture or other demeaning and racist statements," she said.

The former Rota public school teacher likened the debate on H.R. 1466 to issues brought up in U.S. Congress before the Civil War.

"When I was at the hearing I kept thinking that somewhere on these same grounds similar debates were held 150 years ago —debates where people were discussed as if they were merely tools and instruments to boost an economy; debates about people being chained to a place with travel restrictions; debates about people being stripped of liberty and freedoms, debates about people being denied basic social, political and economic rights; debates about people needed to serve the privileged class of the two-tiered society. How was this hearing much different than the debates about slavery? How has it happened that our nation has stepped so far back in time? Truly, that hearing made me ashamed to say that I am an American. I weep for our country and for the de facto citizens of the CNMI," said Doromal.

NMC lowers audit's questioned cost by 6 percent

» Audit's clean bill of health a first for NMC in many years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College was issued a "clean bill of health" by an independent auditor that conducted the institution's audit for fiscal year 2010—a first for the college in many years.

Citing a final audit report that will be released soon, Roger Madriaga told the Board of Regents that this latest audit will indicate that NMC is on the right track and direction when it comes to handling its finances and resources.

Fiscal year 2010 covers Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010.

Madriaga, the college's chief financial and administrative officer, said the draft audit report shows 13 findings, 22 conditions, and $680,000 questionable costs.

Following discussion of these findings with the auditor and submission of certain documents incorporating detailed explanations, the independent auditor was convinced and accepted NMC's justifications in identified cases.

"From the $680,000 questioned cost for fiscal year 2010 audit report, we managed to lower it down to $35,000 questioned cost," Madriaga told *Saipan Tribune*. This is a 6 percent reduction from the original questioned cost.

Madriaga said the original $680,000 questioned cost involved "certain major programs" of the college. He refused to elaborate.

An audit report is composed of two elements: the financial statements and internal control and compliance. The findings, conditions, and questionable amounts are incorporated in the financial statements portion of the audit report.

Madriaga reported that for the first time in many years, NMC's audit for 2010 indicated "no material weaknesses" or no "significant deficiencies." He labeled these results as "clean findings."

Regent William Torres pointed out that NMC's fiscal year 2009 audit report had $433,000 in "unresolved cost." Madriaga explained, however, that this amount was the "accumulative" questioned cost incurred by the college for many years, including that for fiscal year 2009.

The board then voted to adopt the final copy of the fiscal year 2010 audit report. Copies will be submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor, which will make the record public.

The regents lauded the efforts of NMC management for working with the independent auditing firm to complete last fiscal year's audit report.

NMC has two funding sources for its operations and personnel: from local appropriation and from students' tuition and fee revenues.

Hart wants full monitoring of bills, laws affecting NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, wants an aggressive approach in monitoring all bills and laws that will have impact on the college, both in the Commonwealth and at the federal government level.

During Thursday's board meeting, she told regents that full monitoring would better place NMC in a proactive rather than reactive mode. She plans to gather information first, discuss this internally and present recommendations to the board's fiscal and legislative committee, which will then endorse any action to the board.

Ultimately, Hart said, it is the board that will then need to decide and go on the record as to its stand whether it supports, opposes, or has no opinion on pending bills.

Besides the full monitoring of all legislations, Hart also recommended the transfer of board meetings to other areas of the college to make the event more "inclusive and inviting" to members of the community. She proposed a bigger area that can accommodate a larger pool of attendees.

Hart also pointed out that key to NMC's success is acknowledging the importance of other key stakeholders such as the NMC Foundation and community members. She suggested that future board meetings may be scheduled with these stakeholders to maintain their "link" with the institution.

Hart officially assumed office on July 5 and Thursday's meeting was her first. In her maiden report to the board, the chief executive officer vowed to keep the board abreast of all important events at the college with the submission of a president's report each month.

To erase confusion and misunderstanding of facts, Hart also vowed to schedule a quarterly meeting with the Legislature to keep them posted about the college. She encouraged board members to join her in the same meetings, once schedules are confirmed.

Meantime, Hart disclosed that the college is moving forward with efforts to improve the link between program review, planning, budgeting, and resource allocation. Results from this process, she added, will help NMC make strategic budget and resource allocation decisions that directly link to the institution's current strategic plan. Final results are expected next month, she said.

NMC, which was recently placed on probation, has until Oct. 15 to submit a report to the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges. A team visit is expected later to validate the content of the probation report.

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18 water division personnel get certification

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighteen personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. were certified as water operators after successfully completing a weeklong certification training conducted by the Hawaiian Rural Water Association.

Jim Watts, the association's executive director, led a three-member team in conducting the training.

All 18 newly certified operators are assigned at CUC's water and wastewater division on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

CUC deputy executive director Alan Fletcher said the weeklong training is essential for improving personnel's skills and providing increased knowledge for its operators. He said the Hawaiian Rural Water Association staffers are top-notch operators and trainers that provide down-to-earth tools and techniques in their programs.

Fletcher said CUC has been fortunate to arrange the training and commended the assistance of training coordinator Greg Burkett and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which funded the training program.

Among the highlights of the weeklong event was the water operator certification course, a 30-minute class concentrated on the Safe Drinking Water Act Standards set by EPA and Division of Environmental Quality. These include water treatment, diseases caused by contaminated water, the importance and responsibilities of being a certified operator, and ensuring safe drinking water for customers.

According to Melvin Tudela, CUC water treatment and distribution trade supervisor, the laboratory tests were the most interesting part for him. He said he learned about chemicals found in water, treatments, and how to add chlorine in the water to kill bacteria and provide safe drinking water.

Anthony DLC. Barcinas of CUC Rota found the lesson on the latest water sampling techniques the most interesting, cost efficient and beneficial for his community. According to Barcinas, the new procedure entails opening the valve and "flushing for 5 minutes, then checking for the right chlorine residuals and then collecting sample."

Oscar Sablan, CUC treatment and distribution technician, says he is appreciative of the class and would like to take part in more training. "I feel they should do more training, especially for the local employees because this is our island. While others come and go, we will always be here."

Gary Byrd, one of the training specialists and a 22-year veteran in water and wastewater operation, conducted the 30-hour water operator certification class. Byrd said HRWA conducted the same training in December 2010 to CUC personnel.

"In the past six months, they have come a long way compared to what I've seen in the mainland," said Byrd.

In addition to their certifications, Byrd is confident that class participants will take with them the knowledge to perform their duties safely and more conscientiously.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hawaiian Rural Water Association's training specialist Gary Byrd explains to CUC water operators the importance of compliance with national primary drinking water standards during last week's training on island.

House honors 46-year service of former Rota center nurse

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House adopted a resolution during its session last week honoring the 46 years of untiring service of the late Lucia Castro Barcinas, a former nurse at the Rota Health Center.

Barcinas began her career in public health at the former Rota Dispensary, which later became the Rota Health Center.

She was born on March 25, 1940 and passed away on Sept. 19, 2009 at the age of 69.

Despite the pressure of her daily assignments at the Rota Health Center, Barcinas took the extra effort to comfort patients to ensure that their needs were promptly provided by the center.

She was also active in various community outreach programs, serving the elderly on Rota and taking part in various school immunization programs in the Commonwealth.

Understanding the importance of furthering one's knowledge and skills, Barcinas participated in numerous workshops and trainings, including the 12th Annual Region 5 Pacific Basin Family Planning Conference held in May 1998 at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California.

The late Barcinas was also awarded several certificates and recognitions for her services including the Length of Services Award in 1992, a certificate of appreciation for untiring support, outstanding performance in 1998, and a certificate of hard work, dedication, and commitment to the Rota Health Center in 2004.

"Because of her dedication and commitment as a healthcare professional and as a member of Rota's community, the late Lucia Castro Barcinas has impacted so many lives and in the eyes of many, the world has become a lesser place without her presence and grace," stated the adopted resolution authored by Rep. Teresita Santos.

Barcinas was married to Abel Songsong Barcinas and they were blessed with eight children: Ricardo, Elizabeth, Patricia, Margarita, Edward, Luisa, Martha, and Regina.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRGORAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BID
ITB11-GOV-113

Emergency Repairs at Tinian Harbor

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction for the Emergency Repairs at the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the project site. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 9, 2011 to Ms. Liz Balajadia, lizb@emchen.com or Ms. Nerissa Benavente, Nerissa.benavente@gmail.com of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB11-GOV-113". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time August 19, 2011. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 19, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 19, 2011, and must be received no later than August 31, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, September 1, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on August 19, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must posses a certificate of authority to conduct business in the CNMI and certification that the value or its unencumbered assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the amount or each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars ($500.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply, DOF

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-044

LOAN SERVICING & RELATED COLLECTION ACTION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified collection agencies to provide loan servicing and related collection actions in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **July 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-044, Loan Servicing & Related Collection Action", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 9 ,2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **July 22, 2011** to Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email Charles_Warren@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply via email mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

$77K grant for emergency food, shelter programs

The CNMI has been awarded federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The CNMI has been selected to receive an award of $77,066 under 29 of the EFSP to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the Commonwealth. The award for the Commonwealth is based upon the total number of unemployed individuals as compared to the total number of unemployed in all qualifying jurisdictions.

The selection was made by the EFSP that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A, and United Way of America.

A local board made up of the mayor of Saipan, Karidat, American Red Cross, the DCCA Division of Youth Services, Salvation Army, Youth with a Mission and others will determine how the funds appropriated by Congress to the CNMI are to be distributed among local emergency food and shelter programs.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

1) be private voluntary non-profits or unit of government;

2) have an accounting system;

3) practice nondiscrimination;

4) have demonstrated the capacity to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs;

5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board; and

6) any funds awarded to local recipient organizations under EFSP Phase 29 must be expended by Dec. 31, 2011.

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Additional information regarding the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program can be found on the EFSP website, http://www.efsp.unitedway.org.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds may contact Lauri B. Ogumoro, Phase 29 Interim Local Board chair, at 234-6981 or at the main office of Karidat in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. The deadline for applications is Friday, July 29, 2011. ***(Karidat)***

Trade and investment key to economic growth, job creation

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and governors from across the country and territories converged here for the 2011 National Governors Association Annual Meeting.

The nation's governors engaged in a lively discussion on the role of international trade and investment in their state's economic development strategy to foster economic growth and job creation during yesterday's special Economic Development and Commerce Committee plenary session at the National Governors Association Annual Meeting.

The governor-led discussion, titled "Governors' Perspectives on Trade and Investment," featured governors' perspectives on opportunities and obstacles to promoting trade and investment in the states. The plenary session included guests Lew W. Cramer, president and CEO, World Trade Center Utah; J. Keith Crisco, secretary, North Carolina Department of Commerce; Jeff Frazier, senior director, Internet Business Solutions Group, Cisco Systems, Inc.; and Fred Lampropoulos, CEO, Merit Medical.

"State economies are increasingly global in terms of both markets and competition," said Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, committee chair. "In addition to multinational corporations, many more small and medium-sized U.S.-based companies are competing worldwide."

"Governors, as the principal stewards of state economic success, are leading efforts to grow their state economies by promoting the export of goods and services and attracting international investment," said North Carolina Gov. Bev Purdue, committee vice chair. "This session offered us the opportunity to share tactics with colleagues, as well as private sector leaders."

For his part, Fitial spoke of the economic plight affecting the people of the Northern Marianas due in large part to the implementation of federal policies in the Commonwealth.

"The people of the CNMI enjoyed once a booming economy that was ravaged by the exodus of the garment industry following the WTO and the further damage to the economy brought about by the enactment of U.S. Public Law 110-229," said Fitial.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial (R-MP) and NGA host Gov. Gary Herbert (R-UT) share a light moment following the governors' plenary session at the 2011 National Governors Association Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Fitial also boasted about the CNMI's tax structure, which is considered attractive to mainland investors. Upon learning of the tax structure, Lampropoulos announced that he would like to visit the islands to consider expanding his business ventures. ***(Office of the Governor)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public hearing cancelled

The Senate Standing Committee on Resources Economic Development and Programs has postponed the following scheduled public hearing until further notice: July 20, 2011, 6pm at Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe. ***(PR)***

WSR registration schedule

The last week of William S. Reyes Elementary School's open registration will be the week of July 18-22, 2011. We encourage parents and guardians of returning and new students to register their children. Registration form is available at the school's main office between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Provide copies of updated health certificate, student insurance or Medicaid, and birth certificate. For new students, provide a copy of official student transcript or report card from the previous school. After this week, registration will be closed. Call 237-3542 for inquiries. ***(PR)***

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN
FY 2012-2016

Goals & Objectives

EMPLOYEMENT AND EDUCATION:
People with DD have improved access to employment and education opportunities consistent with their interest, abilities, and needs.

TRANSPORTATION:
People with developmental disabilities have reasonable transportation services in the community.

CROSS CUTTING:
People with developmental disabilities are informed and assured immediate emergency care in the even of a disaster.

CNMI DD COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 502565
SAIPAN, MP 96950
info@cnmidd.org
Tel: (670) 664-7000
Fax: (670) 664–7030

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years.

Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting public hearings on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota on how best the Council can and should serve all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. During the public hearings, all persons with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, the general public will be provided the opportunity to review and offer comment or input on the proposed goals and objectives of its proposed FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN. The proposed Five Year State Plan will cover periods beginning Fiscal years 2012 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these hearings will be used to establish or complete the proposed Five Year State Plan.

Schedule of Public Hearings

SAIPAN	TINIAN	ROTA
WHEN: July 18, 2011	WHEN: July 20, 2011	WHEN: July 22, 2011
WHERE: Multi-Purpose Center	WHERE: Tinian Public Library	WHERE: Rota Round House
TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm	TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm	TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative formats of the proposed 5 Year State Plan is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CDA-04

SUBMISSION: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2011 & 2012 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director, CDA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes: April 12, 2011, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2011, Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
a. Personnel & Budget
b. Update - Telephone System
c. Update - Travel Policy

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
a. CDBG Status Reports
b. PY 2011 CDBG Proposals

V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM
a. Loan Status Reports by Programs / Delinquency & Litigation Report
b. Buy-back RD Loans Status Report
c. NSP Status Report
d. Lease-To-Own of NMHC Properties
e. REO Purchase
f. MPLT Accounts at BoH Update
g. BankPacific Status Report
h. HOME Loans for Approval
i. USDA RD new MOU
j. Other Loan Matters

VI. PROGRAM & HOUSING
a. Section 8 New Construction Program: Liyo Status Report
b. Section 8 Status Reports by Location: Saipan/Tinian/Rota
c. Voucher Program Status Report by Location: Saipan/Tinian/Rota

VII. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
a. Tinian
b. Rota

VIII. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. Fiscal Year 2008 & 2009 Audited Financial Statement Status
b. NMHC Current Fiscal Year Financial Statement: Funds Availability & Cash Forecast Report as of June 30, 2011
c. Amended Budget for FY 2012
d. Employees Accounts Receivable Status Report
e. BoH Reserve Account
f. Outstanding Receivable for BoH Non-MPLT and MPLT Accounts
g. HUD Grants Status Report

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. OTHER MATTERS
a. LIHTC Status Report
b. LIHTC Evaluations

XI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Man allegedly slams wife's head on table

Mad at his wife for coming home drunk, a man allegedly repeatedly slammed his wife's head on a picnic table at their house in Kagman III early Saturday morning

Responding police officers also found outside the house a marijuana plant allegedly owned by the suspect.

Christopher Magofna, 43, was arrested for assault and battery and illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). His bail was set at $1,300 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on July 28.

The victim had called the Department of Public Safety on Friday at 2:26am to report a domestic violence incident at her house, according to detective Norman A.S. Rasiang's report.

Rasiang said that when two police officers arrived at the house, the victim met them and explained that her husband, Magofna, refused to let her inside the house. The officer smelled a strong odor of alcohol from the wife's breath.

The same officer also spotted a marijuana plant outside the house.

The victim told the officer that Magofna was angry with her when she came home after a rosary. He allegedly grabbed her by the shoulder and slammed her head on the picnic table several times.

Magofna was arrested. The following day, Magofna allegedly admitted to police that he owns the marijuana plant outside their house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Registration for Teachers Institute extended

Slots are still available for the 2011 Teachers Institute sponsored by the Northern Marianas Council for the Humanities. Members of the general public who are interested in attending the history lectures may contact the Council for more information.

The Institute is a six-session course that provides a comprehensive understanding of Northern Marianas history. PSS teachers who complete the course will satisfy their NMI history certification requirement.

The Institute will be held every Wednesday and Thursday from August 3 to August 18. Topics covered in the six sessions include: (1) Geography and Pre-Contact Culture and History; (2) Spanish colonial period and influence; (3) German colonial period and Japanese colonial period; (4) World War II and Naval/Trust Territory eras; (5) Status Negotiations and CNMI Constitution; and (6) Current Issues and Cultural Preservation.

For more information, contact Merced Ada at 235-4785/4787 or mada@pticom.com. Registration forms are available at the Council office at Springs Plaza on Middle Road and at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(Council for the Humanities)***

NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Francine D. Pangelinan, who recently graduated with a master of science degree in Administration of Justice and Security. She is the daughter of Frances and Martin Pangelinan. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to our princess, D'Andra Yzabella Salas Deleon Guerrero, who turns 1 today, July 19, 2011. A year ago, you gave us so much joy, love, and happiness. We love you so much princess D! Greetings coming out from mom, dad, your two brothers Jr. and Jackary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Frankie B. Castro, Carmen C. Cabrera and Leila Jo Rosario, who celebrated their special day on July 17, 2011. Greetings come from your WIC family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Can You Identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

The person in last week's photo was identified as: Engracia Kapileo. Identified by Anna Pua, Sonya Olopai, Vivian Igisaiar, Cindy Raisiang, and Cindylyn Mettao.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 19,1999

US territories to get $22M for Y2K preparations

The Clinton Administration will allocate $22.2 million in new federal funding for US territories and the freely associated states (FAS) to assist them in upgrading their government computer systems to make them Y2K compliant, an insular official announced yesterday. Danny Aranza, acting director of the Office of Insular Affairs or OIA, said the computer upgrading programs of these territories will be funded by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Aranza said the budget office is awaiting Congress' approval of its request to reprogram funds for this purpose. He said the budget office will fund only the computer systems that were originally installed through federal grants.

Local insurance firm gets boost

After one year of negotiation, Australian-owned Family Assurance will now provide reinsurance support to Oceania Insurance Corp., allowing the local company to give its clients a wider range of products. According to Ross Porter, managing director of Family Assurance, the company's decision to seek a local partner was based on its confidence in the management of Oceania and the CNMI economy. Porter met with Commerce Secretary Frankie Villanueva last week to inform him of the reinsurance service that Family Assurance will be giving to Oceania. This brings to three the total number of companies with a reinsurance support.

July 19, 2000

Teno hopes Congress shoots down takeover bill

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed hope again that legislation extending federal minimum wage and immigration laws that are pending in the U.S. Congress will not pass despite renewed efforts by some members to revive these measures. "It's been our desire that [they], and we have always asked Congress to please, help us and hopefully the bill will not go through," he told reporters in an interview. The governor was referring to S. 1052—which seeks automatic takeover of CNMI's immigration by the federal government—that was passed by the U.S. Senate last February and is still awaiting action in the lower house.

$40K fed grants for visually-impaired

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has recently been awarded $40,000 worth of federal funds to assist visually-impaired individuals who are 55 years old and above acquire the necessary vision aids that would support their plight to be independent. The agency has been guaranteed continuous $40,000 funding for a span of five years under its Independent Living for the Older Blind program. Tee Abraham, Vocational Rehabilitation director, is urging visually-impaired individuals and those whose vision are poor to avail of the services the agency is offering. Under the program, qualified applicants can be provided eye examinations, eye glasses or other vision aids at the expense of the VR office.

July 19, 2001

EMO seeks additional funds

Citing probable miscommunication between the Emergency Management Office and some lawmakers, the EMO is set to request the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for fresh funding amounting to $120,000 to pay off its obligations to several vendors. This comes in the wake of the passage of House Local Bill 12-40, a local measure appropriating $303,957 for projects in the Third Senatorial District-with $19,062 going to the EMO. EMO director Gregorio A DL. Guerrero had originally asked for $120,000 but legislative action whittled down this amount to just $19,062, as lawmakers had to readjust the funding allocation to accommodate several priority projects for Saipan.

NMC offers business, nursing courses

A partnership between the National University and the Northern Marianas College will bring business and nursing studies to the Commonwealth. The Bachelor of Business Administration offers four areas of concentration: accountancy, human resource management, finance, and marketing. Under the partnership, most general education requirements and other 100- and 200-level courses in preparation for the degree may be fulfilled by taking the NMC courses. All upper-division courses will be taken through the NU. Nurses who already have a BSN degree may enroll in NU's Master of Science in Nursing program. Graduate level studies will include community health and leadership preceptorship courses, which will incorporate activities with health care providers in the CNMI.

Pacific

Subcommittee holds hearing on Guam visa waiver program, war claims

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo joined her colleagues on the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs of the House Natural Resources Committee on Friday to receive testimony regarding the implementation of Public Law 110-229, which established the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, and H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

H.R. 44 was added to the hearing agenda at the request of Bordallo.

During the panel on P.L. 110-229, Bordallo asked witnesses to convey to the Subcommittee the importance of extending the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program to China and Russia.

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo testified that including China and Russia within the visa waiver program is critical for Guam's economy and future growth. Bordallo urged the Department of Homeland Security to implement parole authority on Guam in the short term so that congressional intent is achieved and there is truly a regional program.

During the panel on H.R. 44, Bordallo stressed to her colleagues that passage of Guam war claims would go a long way to maintaining support for the military buildup. She also emphasized the critical need for Congress to act swiftly on this legislation, as the number of living survivors continues to decline. During her statement, Bordallo highlighted the bipartisan nature of this legislation, as well as its already lengthy legislative history in Congress, as reason for speedy passage.

Former Guam congressman, Brig. Gen. Ben Blaz, USMC (ret.), provided testimony on behalf of survivors of the Japanese occupation of Guam. Blaz, who is a survivor himself, was 17 when Japanese forces overtook the island, and he witnessed many of the atrocities that were committed against Chamorros on Guam. As a former congressman, he expressed his sincere disappointment over continued Republican arguments against war claims because of its cost in this difficult fiscal environment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Brig. Gen. Ben Blaz, USMC (ret.), and former Guam congressman; Mauricio Tamargo, former chairman of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; Nik Pula, director of the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs; and Gov. Eddie Calvo testify in support of H.R. 44.

Calvo, Mauricio Tamargo, former chairman of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, and Nik Pula, director of the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, also provided testimony in support of H.R. 44.

"The subcommittee held a hearing on two of our island's most important and pressing issues: Guam war claims and the expansion of our visa waiver program," said Bordallo. "The inclusion of China and Russia within the visa waiver program is essential for our tourism industry, and I continue to urge the Department of Homeland Security to include these emerging markets within the program. I also encourage DHS to outline a clear timeline for allowing Chinese and Russian visitors under this program and to work with our stakeholder community to address any potential issues. Further, the panel on H.R. 44 provided members of the Committee with a better understanding of the importance of this issue to the people of Guam. Resolving Guam war claims is critical to rectifying this longstanding injustice against the Chamorros who suffered a brutal thirty-two month occupation by the enemy during World War II, yet they remained steadfast in their loyalty to our country. I believe that this hearing was an important step toward finally resolving this issue for our survivors. However, the hearing highlighted to the people of Guam the challenge we face in passing this legislation given the fiscal concerns about the bill raised by Acting Chairman Landry. I thank Chairman Fleming and Ranking Member Sablan for convening this hearing, and I also thank all the witnesses for their testimony."

Written testimony for inclusion in the hearing record will continue to be accepted until Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Those wishing to submit statements may deliver them to Bordallo's District Office at 120 Father Duenas Avenue, Suite 107 in Hagatña or by fax to 671-477-2948. ***(PR)***

Fena Cave site visit today

SANTA RITA, Guam—Through a partnership between Naval Base Guam and the Mayor of Santa Rita, Dale Alvarez, relatives of victims of the July 1944 Fena Cave Massacre and Guam historians will be transported to the cave site on Tuesday, July 19, at 4pm.

Buses will transport this select group from the Santa Rita Mayor's Office onto U.S. Naval Base Guam, Naval Munitions Command, where the cave is located.

There will be no formal ceremony or Mass at the site, but visitors will offer prayers for the deceased and reminisce. Sailors and Marines will offer courtesy escort for the *man'amko* (elders) across the grass and on the steps to the cave. ***(PR)***

UOG

RECYCLING BINS

University of Guam Green interns and GCC Eco-Warriors are constructing 350 recycling bins made of chicken wire for the Liberation Day Parade. The bins will be deployed along the parade route. The group has created more than 100 to date, and plans to reach their 350 mark by today.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Faleomavaega wins human rights award

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin has been named by the West Papua Advocacy Team as the 2011 recipient of the John Rumbiak Human Rights Defenders Award. The advocacy team says Faleomavaega has been an articulate and effective advocate for the defense of human rights in West Papua, and has long worked for a peaceful resolution in the Indonesian province. It says his extensive knowledge of West Papua and the respect he is held in by congressional colleagues has enabled him to alert successive US administrations and the US public to governance and development concerns in the province.

American Samoa proposes fine for overstayer sponsors

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A bill in American Samoa proposes that immigration sponsors of foreigners who overstay their permits will be subject to fines. Representatives Tuumolimoli Saena Moliga and Faimealelei Anthony Allen want sponsors to pay 10 US dollars for every day of overstaying. The bill levies a fine of 100 dollars a day for corporations or business sponsors for foreigners that do not return home at the expiration of their permits. The bill states that due to the urgent need to curtail violations of immigration laws, it shall become effective immediately once approved by the Fono and signed into law by the governor.

Australia ups Solomons aid to $65.7 million

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Australian bilateral aid to the Solomon Islands will increase to more than SBD$500 million [US$65.7 million] in 2011-12 up from SBD400 million [US$52.6 million] in 2010-11. This was highlighted at the annual aid talks between the Solomon Islands Government and Australia in Honiara yesterday. Snyder Rini, Minister for Development Planning and Aid Coordination, led the annual partnership for development talks for Solomon Islands. Peter Baxter, the Director General of AusAID, led the Australian delegation.

Cook Isles plan world's largest 'marine park'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands is planning to develop the world's largest marine park. Following a week of public meetings, Prime Minister Henry Puna announced the park proposal has garnered sufficient support to move forward to full design and establishment. The Cook Islands has an exclusive economic zone of more than two million square kilometers, and a marine reserve would cover one million square kilometers of that.

Faleomavaega seeks clarification on Swains isle

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's member of the US Congress Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin is seeking to understand the full relationship between the United States and Swains Island.

He has made a request to the US Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar, with copy of the letter to Representative Alexander Jennings, who is the Swains Delegate to the Fono.

Faleomavaega says he wants to understand the federal government's position in relation to federal funding.

Swains Island was placed under the administration of the American Samoa Government in 1929 when the U.S. Congress officially accepted and ratified American Samoa's two treaties of cession.

Under the terms of the ensuing ratifying Act, civil, judicial and administrative jurisdictions over American Samoa, including Swains Island, were vested with the Executive Branch, that is the Department of Interior

Faleomavaega says the outcome of such arrangements can be best described as very complicated and ambiguous.

He says he is not aware of any federal assistance for Swains Island other than allocated funds in the American Samoa Government budget.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Smarter about patdowns

When you read last week that terrorists have discussed surgically implanting explosives in passengers so they could blow up airliners, did you feel a little less aggrieved about the TSA agents who supposedly patted down a 95-year-old woman in a wheelchair?

That patdown was a late-June outrage *du jour* about the Transportation Security Administration. The story: The elderly woman was patted down and, when agents felt something suspicious, told her to remove her adult diaper. The TSA denies that the incident happened.

The question is, would you rather have TSA agents underreach or overreach, because they're not going to get it just right every time. When they overreach, the result can be a little indignity. When they get lax, the danger is much greater.

Yet there's a revolt in the making over full body scans and patdowns and other aggressive tactics by TSA agents. Case in point: Texas lawmakers recently passed a bill to rein in patdowns at airports in the state. "Airport security must focus on stopping terrorists, not harassing innocent travelers," Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst told reporters.

Who can argue? Lt. Gov. Dewhurst apparently has great confidence in his ability to pick out the terrorists from the innocents.

But the story about al-Qaida contemplating how to hide explosives on travelers is a sharp reminder about priorities.

TSA officials are looking at how they can better balance convenience and security for the millions of people who pass through the nation's airports. Promises of express lanes for screened passengers have floated around for years, and strike us as the best option. Short of that, putting up with the occasional indignity is just a (maddening) cost of flying. We have exceedingly limited sympathy for travelers under the misimpression that they're actually strolling into courtrooms and are innocent until proven guilty.

The point of airport security isn't to judge the moral worth or failing of each person headed for the gate. The point is to screen out people who raise suspicions in order to keep air travel what it is under the current, admittedly invasive protocols: incredibly safe by any statistical measure you choose. The TSA can't presume that the next passenger in line is safe simply because the passenger looks harmless. So did the 9/11 hijackers.

Nor, though, can the agency ignore the rising anger of the public and some government officials attuned to complaints from voters. The solution is to redirect this criticism of the current rules as applied into a push to get the trusted traveler system up and running.

We say this realizing that, even if it were implemented tomorrow, the first priority of air travel wouldn't (and shouldn't) be, "Bow to every traveler's sensitivities." The first priority would be what it is today: "Arrive alive."

(c) 2011, Chicago Tribune

Political aspirant

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

If ever something needed to be demystified, it's the function of our political offices and the jobs of the politicians who hold them. That's not a knock on the men and women currently in office as much as it is on us, we the people, and our general understanding about the purpose of these honored seats—actually, strike that—it's a knock on all of us including the gentlemen and women holding office. An order "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves" does not come at the hands of all powerful, mystical individuals, but rather by way of three branches of a representative government for all men created equal.

What began as an institution of "Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the Governed" has, in fact, become destructive of the very unalienable rights that impelled us to "institute a new government, on [the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness], and [to organize] its Powers in such Form [that seems] most likely to effect [our] Safety and Happiness." I contend that our safety is in fact at risk due to ongoing, antiquated practices in and around our current political institution and many of the personalities therein.

"Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience [has shown] that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed." We, for instance, are accustomed to letting it be and to bowing in the face of familial and other irrelevant bonds. That's not to say that family is irrelevant on the whole, but rather that it cannot be the sole determinant for who we choose to hold a political seat. It's all well and good to elect your family into office, but at the very least make sure that it's one of your kin who understands the role and has the skill, intelligence, integrity, and fortitude to uphold it. Otherwise, "When a long train of Abuses, [corruption, waste and general failures], pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce [us] under absolute Despotism, it is [our] Right and [our] Duty to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for [our] future Security."

The first question then ought to be, has the current makeup of and gamesmanship within our government subjected us to repeated injuries, leaving many of us with little to no recourse and/or representative voice for correcting them? "To prove this, let the facts be submitted to a candid" Commonwealth:

Our Leaders "have refused [their] Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good" and have instead pursued short-sighted, even detrimental Acts for personal gain;

Our Leaders have made people "dependent on [their] Will alone, for the tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries" and people are fearful of arbitrary and capricious actions against them;

Our Leaders "have erected a Multitude of new Offices [with redundant/questionable functions], and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People and eat out their substance"; and

Our Leaders have "called together Legislative [and other decision-making] Bodies at Places [unannounced to the general public and even other members of their own clubs] for the sole purpose of [effectuating laws and other such rules without public discourse]."

At multiple stages of the above, some have "Petitioned for redress in the most humble Terms: [Their] repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury."

Therefore, the second question is how do we make the necessary changes? The answer could be two-fold: (1) that the insiders themselves might reflect on and realize that if we keep doing the same things over and over again, we will get the same results over and over again or (2) that more of the people looking in from the outside blaze new trails inward with innovative and proven methods to build a stronger, more sustainable future.

At least one novel political aspirant has come forward with eyes on the governor's seat, arguably the position with the single greatest potential to effectuate immediate and significant change for better times. Still, I would caution that people not jump on the novelty wagon for novelty's sake—everyone has ideas, but it's the plan for implementing those ideas and a comprehensive analysis about the effects of those plans that we should be asking, nay…demanding to hear.

Nearly one quarter of a millennium ago, Thomas Jefferson, scripted much of the prose as quoted above—I've taken some liberties in re-arranging and adding to them for purposes of this article—you be the judge as to whether they still apply today in the context of our local politics. Without question though, the disability movement, like all other civil rights movements, is rooted in his timeless words that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." When the institution of our Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches loses sight of these core principles and affixes itself on anything but, then all people (disability or otherwise) are doomed to suffer the consequences.

"All I'm saying is simply this, that all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied

See POLITICAL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

HR 1466: Relief for some

The air is thick is with accusations against Congressman Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466 which, if passed, will provide CNMI-only status to four groups who are currently waiting in limbo for some resolution to their precarious immigration situation. A prominent rights activist, quoted in the Saipan Tribune, says that if passed, H.R. 1466 will create a "separatist, apartheid-type status," continue into the federal immigration system the "persistent exploitation of foreign workers" that existed under CNMI law, and provide incentive to xenophobic state legislatures to follow suit. Both the rights activist and a well-known workers' movement representative criticize H.R. 1466 for not providing relief to those long-time, lawfully present workers who do not have U.S. citizen children. On the other end of the spectrum, the CNMI administration's representatives say that H.R. 1466 will provide "amnesty," and that it encourages tourists to overstay in hopes that an amnesty will be put into place.

We agree with the activists, and with Senate President Paul Mangloña (who otherwise supports the bill), that H.R. 1466 should be wider in scope, and provide relief to a larger group. We wish it were so. But the reality of politics is that sometimes you have to take what you can get, and hope to get closer to your goal in the future. The rising tide of anti-immigration sentiment in the United States has made any comprehensive immigration legislation unlikely.

This bill actually has a chance of getting through Congress, especially after Hazel Doctor's strong testimony at last week's House subcommittee hearing. Kudos to Ms. Doctor, whom we have watched in Bar Association-sponsored mock trial competitions, and marked out as a young lady of considerable intelligence and talent. She illustrates exactly why we believe so strongly that access to immigration is one of America's basic strengths.

The other arguments against H.R. 1466 are most politely characterized as stuff and nonsense. It's time we start talking about this subject, which is critical to everyone in the Commonwealth, rationally—no rabble-rousing, no politicking, just straight talk. Today we'll try—first by talking about what H.R. 1466 won't do, then about its actual effect if passed, and then about what we think those people directly affected by H.R. 1466 actually want.

What H.R. 1466 won't do

H.R. 1466 won't create an apartheid. Apartheid in South Africa was a truly evil system that subjugated millions of people within their own country, and subjected them to violence, unlawful imprisonment, and police state-sponsored terrorism and murder. Like segregation in the U.S. before the successes of the Civil Rights Movement, apartheid systematically separated people from one another right where they lived.

By contrast, H.R. 1466 merely continues the travel restrictions already in place prior to federalization of CNMI immigration. It also provides mechanisms by which those restrictions eventually will be removed by adjustment of status to U.S. permanent residents.

H.R. 1466 won't perpetuate persistent abuse of foreign workers. The CNMI has had more than its share of abuses of foreign labor, but we hope and believe that the people of the CNMI will no longer tolerate mistreatment of workers, whether foreign or local. It is true that until they qualify for adjustment of status, foreign workers in the CNMI will have no more privilege to live and work in the rest of the U.S. than any other foreigner who does not otherwise qualify for a U.S. visa, but H.R. 1466 does provide a path for those who seek that goal.

The critics' argument breaks down to a statement that foreign workers' presence in the CNMI inevitably equals their abuse; if that were the case, a ban on foreign workers would be the obvious cure. The critics cannot really want that, to uproot the same people they seek to protect. We believe that the proper response to labor abuse is not to eliminate the victims from the scene, but rather to better enforce the laws that exist to prevent and punish labor abuse. Even if the administrative agencies fall short, our courts, both CNMI and federal, have shown both ability and willingness to redress wrongs brought before them.

H.R. 1466 won't create an amnesty. As Congressman Kilili himself stated last week, amnesty is for illegals. The people who will be protected by H.R. 1466 are, with very few exceptions, lawfully present in the CNMI. The overstaying tourists who wait for amnesty and in the meantime worry the Administration are largely a figment of the administrative imagination.

H.R. 1466 won't lead to copycat abuses by the states. Despite the efforts of Fortress Arizona and the misguided legislatures of some other states, states simply do not have the power either to admit an alien to the United States or, once an alien is admitted by the U.S. government, to restrict that alien's travel within the United States.

What H.R. 1466 will do—who actually benefits?

Who will benefit? We think the entire Commonwealth will benefit, for a number of reasons ranging from humanitarian considerations to preservation of the Commonwealth's workforce, and therefore its economy. (Don't forget that "commonwealth" comes from two words that mean the well-being of all.) There are four classes of identified beneficiaries of H.R. 1466, all of whom must have resided in the CNMI on May 8, 2008 (the day the CNRA was signed into law) and Nov. 28, 2009 (the "federalization" date):

- People born in what is now the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978. These are people who are truly in limbo. We have talked to quite a few of them, and occasionally written about them in this column. They were born here, raised here and, typically, have lived all their lives here. But they are too old for the relief provided the "stateless" children under the *Sabangan* decision several years ago. Why stop, going backward, at Jan. 1, 1974? Most likely because it is the cutoff date in the citizenship sections of the Covenant.
- CNMI permanent residents on May 8, 2008, the date the CNRA (the "federalization" statute) was signed into law. These people are already able to obtain humanitarian parole (aka "parole in place") from DHS, but H.R. 1466 stabilizes their situation.
- The spouses and children (unmarried and under 21) of the two groups identified above.
- The immediate relatives, on May 8, 2008, of U.S. citizens, regardless of the age of the U.S. citizen. Why the cutoff on the CNRA's effective date? For the same reason, we think, that U.S. courts in the mid-1950s the mere fact that an alien has a U.S. citizen child will not prevent the alien's deportation—however sympathetic the courts might have been, judges were not going to set a policy that encouraged people to have children for immigration benefits.

We need to say something more about a subset of this group: over the past few years we have spoken with a number of parents of disabled children. We have a small stack of interview notes with these parents, and have been seeking some form of relief for them. Some of these children are gravely disabled, some less; a surprising number are autistic.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provide that every child in the United States is guaranteed the right to a "free, appropriate public education" (usually abbreviated "FAPE"), at least until age 22. FAPE is "the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual needs of handicapped persons as well as the needs of non-handicapped persons are met and based on adherence to procedural safeguards outlined in the law."

These children will not get these services outside the United States, and the concern of these parents has not been "how can I stay here?" but, rather, "can I stay here so that my child can get help?" H.R. 1466 will do that.

What benefits will they get?

U.S.-issued CNMI Permanent Residence. The holders of this U.S.-issued status will be able to live and work in the CNMI, and to leave and enter the CNMI freely, as CNMI entry permit holders were able to do before Nov. 28, 2009. They will not be able to travel to or reside in any other part of the United States "unless otherwise authorized"—that is, unless they obtain visa or parole to do so. They can keep the status until they no longer permanently reside in the CNMI, or become U.S. permanent residents, whichever comes first. The status will become available during a 90-day period beginning six months after H.R. 1466 becomes law.

Possible Full U.S. Permanent Residence. Of course, the U.S. citizen children of foreign parents can apply for the parents to receive permanent residence, once the children reach the age of 21. H.R. 1466 provides another path to U.S. permanent residence for the other three groups (those born here between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978; those who were CNMI permanent residents on May 8, 2008; and the spouses and children of these two groups). If passed, H.R. 1466 will allow members of these three groups to apply for green cards between Jan. 1, 2015 and before Jan. 1, 2016.

Who gets left out? As we said at the beginning of this column, we wish H.R. 1466 were wider in scope. Anyone who does not fit into the four groups identified above, however, will still be able to fall back on the CW-1 program (if and when the final regulations are published) or, if qualified, to seek one of the regular U.S. visas such as H-1B or L-1A.

What do people want? More specifically, what do we think the foreign workers and their families who will be subject to H.R. 1466 want? Will they welcome or reject it?

Obviously, we are not foreign workers, nor are we at risk of removal from the CNMI. But we each have always been involved in immigration work, and over the past three years, since passage of the CNRA, we have been involved in intensive interviews with many hundreds, perhaps more properly thousands, of people. We have made at least 30 public presentations—to business and workers' groups, to church and school groups, and a couple of radio shows (most recently on KWAW 100.3 last week)—and we regularly respond to questions from readers of this column. We think we have a pretty good idea what most concerns foreign workers and their families. In the context of H.R. 1466, it all boils down to one overriding concern: **Maintain employment stability and family unity—who will take care of my children?**

This is the single most important theme we hear. People are not so much concerned about travel restrictions, or even minimum wage raises. Rather, they want to remain with their families in this community. The most heart-rending part of our interviews are the large numbers of parents—usually mothers—who believe they will have to leave their U.S. citizen children behind and who have come to us, over and over, and ask, "who will take care of my children?" while tears stream down their faces.

Until now, for parents not otherwise qualified for visas, the only answer we could give was, "You will—we just don't know where." If H.R. 1466 passes, we will have a better answer for them.

Prevailing wage survey revisited

In our last column, we discussed the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's prevailing wage survey for the CNMI, to be conducted through the Guam Employers Council. The survey has begun, and we encourage every employer to contact the Chamber of Commerce and get involved. Everyone will benefit, even companies with no foreign workers.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

POLITICAL

From Page 10

in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality"—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Please call the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line via www.nmpasi.com for anything further on the disability movement and/or the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

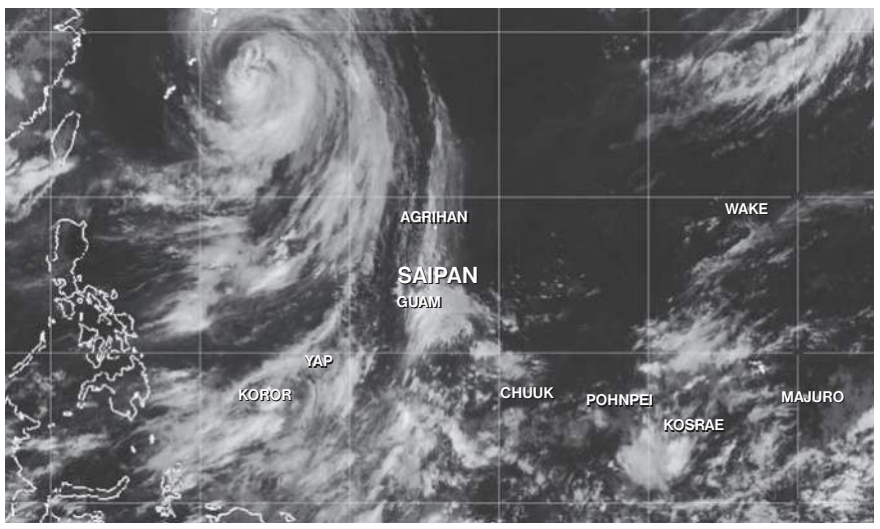
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼70
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼75
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲86	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲90	▼72
Osaka	Rain	▲83	▼79
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼54
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲81	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼65
Salem	Rain	▲72	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲82	▼68
Tokyo	Rain	▲83	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Ma-on (08W) is centered well northwest of the Marianas at 27N133E and moving northward at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the center of Ma-on northwest of a line from 21N130E to 23N137E to 25N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also found within 90 miles of line from 15N130E to 18N138E to 25N141E. For more information on Typhoon Ma-on, see bulletins from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Converging surface winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Yap and Koror between the equator and 10N from 130E to 141E. A surface trough near the Marianas extends northward from 11N145E to 15N146E. Scattered showers are occurring within 90 miles of the trough axis including at Guam and Rota. Another trough extends northward from 1N144E to 7N144E. Scattered showers are present between the equator and 8N from 141E to 150E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei and Kosrae within 250 miles of a line from 1N160E to 12N163E. A trade-wind trough stretches northeastward from 1N175E to beyond the date line at 4N. Converging surface winds on the west side of the trough are producing scattered showers up to 300 miles northwest of the trough axis.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:32 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:29 PM	9:03 AM
Wednesday	10:05 PM	9:50 AM
Thursday	10:41 PM	10:37 AM
Friday	11:19 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday	11:58 PM	12:12 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

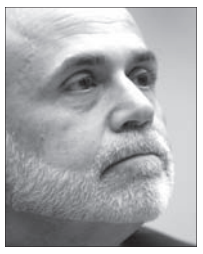
Business

What happens to markets if the US defaults?

NEW YORK (AP)—Time is running out for Washington to raise the country's borrowing limit and avoid a default. Wall Street isn't panicking yet. But if the unthinkable happens, a default could strike financial markets like an earthquake.

"If we just get higher longer-term interest rates, we'd be lucky," said John Briggs, Treasury strategist at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

What might markets look like after a default?


Bernanke

The tremors from even a short-lived default could take unpredictable paths. Stocks, bonds and the dollar would likely plummet in the immediate aftermath.

There's wide agreement among economists that a default would drive up borrowing costs for everybody. U.S. Treasury yields act like a floor for other lending rates, so raising them makes it more expensive for Americans to take out mortgages, for corporations to finance new spending and for local governments to borrow.

But analysts say predicting exactly how a default would play out in stocks, bonds and currency in the hours and days following the Aug. 2. debt ceiling deadline is practically impossible.

"If I were to draw a flow chart, it becomes so complex it's impossible to analyze the impact of a default," said Guy LaBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott.

When pressed, investors say the immediate aftermath could look like the financial crisis in September 2008. Stocks would lead the way down. In the month following Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy, for instance, the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 28 percent.

Gold may offer some refuge. Fear has driven traders into precious metals in droves in recent years, but gold is at a record $1,594 an ounce, without taking inflation into account. But two places where traders usually hide -- the dollar and U.S. Treasurys -- are likely to sink as the world's investors flee the U.S. There would be few places to hide.

A deeper fear is that a default could freeze the short-term lending markets that keep money moving throughout the global financial system. Treasurys and other government-backed debt are widely as used collateral for loans in these markets.

A default and a downgrade of U.S. debt by rating agencies would shake the trust in that collateral, Briggs said. Lenders could respond by demanding borrowers to post more collateral, forcing them to sell other investments to meet those demands. A similar selling cycle spread turmoil across markets when Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008.

But the fallout from a U.S. default could be much worse.

"I don't even want to think of the ripple effects," Briggs said.

Indeed, most analysts agree that if the world's largest economy reneges on its debts, the consequences would be catastrophic. That's why so far they've trusted Congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama to reach a deal.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke certainly drew a dire picture in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday. He said a default would be a "calamitous outcome" and "create a severe financial shock." The global financial system relies on Treasurys, backed by the world's largest economy and long considered one of the world's safest bets.

"A default on those securities would throw the financial system potentially into chaos," Bernanke said.

The widespread selloff that might trigger could have one benefit, Briggs and others say. Panic-selling might force Washington to quickly agree to raise the debt limit. Think back to September 2008 for some historical perspective. After the House of Representatives voted down the bailout bill to create the Troubled Asset Relief Program on Sept. 29, the Dow Jones industrial average nosedived 777 points. Congress made an about face and four days later passed the TARP bill. President George W. Bush quickly signed it into law.

"We're setting up for a TARP-like moment," said Neil Dutta, U.S. economist at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch. "The politicians don't come to a resolution, but the market forces a resolution."

Traders are still banking on a deal to increase the borrowing limit before the Aug. 2 deadline. That's one reason stocks and bond yields have remained relatively stable thus far, even after Moody's and Standard & Poor's warned they may soon take away the country's top credit rating.

"What would shock is if Washington failed to beat the deadline," said Tony Crescenzi, market strategist at Pimco. Crescenzi and other investors believe the negotiations could drag on until the last minute.

Markets would likely greet a deal with a "relief rally," analysts say. The effect would be the reverse of a default: Stocks, corporate bonds and the dollar all jump.

"The market will react well to it," said David Kelly, chief market strategist at J.P. Morgan Funds. Kelly said a deal would lift the uncertainty hanging over investors, especially those too worried to buy stocks now. After President Bush signed the TARP into law in 2008, for instance, the Dow made large jumps, adding as many as 946 points in a week.

When Washington finally agrees to raise the debt ceiling, Treasurys could drop because investors would be more willing to take risks in other investments, Kelly said. That's how they normally trade: Good economic news pushes Treasury prices down and yields up.

Will the U.S. run out of cash?

A new study shows how the government will not be able pay its bills if the federal debt ceiling is not raised by Aug. 2 to allow more borrowing.

Balance sheet after Aug. 2
Estimated federal income and expenses, Aug. 3-31
Income
$172.4 billion
Expenses
$306.7 billion
• Government could honor 56 cents for every dollar of obligations
Deficit $134.3 billion
August expenses
Estimates in billions
Interest on debt $29.0
Social Security benefits $49.2
Medicare/Medicaid $50.0
Defense vendor payments $31.7
Unemployment insurance benefits $12.8
Military active duty pay $2.9
Veterans programs $2.9
IRS refunds $3.9
Food/nutrition/ needy families $9.3
Federal salaries, benefits $14.2
Small Business Administration $0.3
Education Dept. $20.2
Housing, Urban Development $6.7
Other spending* $72.9
Bills the government could pay in Aug. $172.7 billion
Bills that would go unpaid $133.3 billion
NOTE: Figures are estimates and don't equal the total income and expenses exactly
*Justice Dept., Labor Dept., General Services Administration, Commerce Dept., NASA, Health and Human Services Dept., Energy Dept., EPA, Interior Dept., Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, AID, etc.
Source: Bipartisan Policy Center
Graphic: Judy Treible
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The swift decline of UK media titan Rebekah Brooks

LONDON (AP)—Rebekah Brooks dined with Britain's prime minister over Christmas and got a public show of support from her boss Rupert Murdoch before the cameras this month as allegations of phone hacking on her watch mounted.

Now the 43-year-old U.K. media executive is a criminal suspect, her world of power and connections shattered by scandal.

Brooks, who quit as head of Murdoch's British newspapers Friday, was arrested Sunday in a widening investigation into years of alleged phone hacking of hundreds of celebrities, politicians and even murder victims, as well as bribing police for information, at the now-shuttered tabloid News of the World. Scotland Yard released her on bail after about 12 hours in custody.

The arrest sealed Brooks' swift transformation from one of Britain's most powerful female executives to a figure of scorn and even parody.

On Sunday, an Irish discount airline seized on perceptions of Brooks as an outlaw, placing an ad in The Observer newspaper that showed a photograph of the longtime Murdoch confidant, said to be so close to him that she was seen as family.

AP

In this Sunday, July 10, 2011 file photo, former Chief executive of News International, Rebekah Brooks leaves a hotel in central London.

"Hacked Off with High Fares... I'm outta here with Ryanair!" the caption crowed.

The implications of Brooks' arrest stretch far beyond her own circumstances, with questions about the extent to which the scandal rocking Britain's media establishment will dismantle the chain of command in Murdoch's business empire and erode the stature of Prime Minister David Cameron and other politicians who had once-cozy ties to the 80-year-old press baron. Another of Murdoch's chief executives, Wall Street Journal publisher Les Hinton, also had to resign Friday after more than 50 years with Murdoch. James Murdoch, head of European and Asian operations for his father's company, News Corp., is under increasing scrutiny. He and the senior Murdoch, along with Brooks, face questioning Tuesday by British lawmakers investigating the scandal.

Brooks has been at the center of the storm since the scandal broke.

Recognizable by a long shock of curly red hair, the 43-year-old Brooks was a loyal lieutenant of Murdoch and served as editor of the News of the World for part of the time when the tabloid's journalists allegedly hacked into telephone messages.

Reports of illegal eavesdropping had percolated for years, but revelations that journalist had hacked into the voice mail of a 13-year-old murder victim, Milly Dowler, in 2002 caused a public uproar.

The scandal was deemed toxic for the tabloid, and Murdoch shut down the 168-year-old newspaper. Brooks was vilified for initially clinging to her job while 200 other journalists lost theirs.

Brooks' career with the News of the World began in 1989, after briefly working for Murdoch's group as a secretary. She started as a features writer, then became features editor, associate editor and ultimately deputy editor. She left the tabloid in 1998 to become deputy editor of Murdoch's other London tabloid, The Sun, where she stayed for two years.

When Brooks returned to the News of the World as editor in 2000, she was only 31 years old—a feat for Britain's press establishment.

She peppered the tabloid with celebrity scandals, and drew praise for using the newspaper as a platform to help get sex offender legislation, known as "Sarah's Law," passed in Britain. Brooks' controversial campaign to publicly identify pedophiles drew criticism from some police, who said it disrupted investigations and could lead to cases of mistaken identity, but she defended it on the grounds that the public had the right to know.

In another stint at The Sun, another Murdoch tabloid, Brooks became its first female editor in 2003. She thumbed her nose at critics who expected her to end tabloid's daily topless model pictures on page 3, attaching a headline that said "Rebekah from Wapping" to the photo of a nude model of the same name on her first day on the job.

Six years and a host of scoops later, Brooks was named chief executive of News International, joining the elite circle of Murdoch confidants.

No longer drafting the headlines from her perch in the executive suite, Brooks has still made plenty of them—from her lunches and social calls with top politicians to one unusual brush with the law.

In 2005, Brooks was arrested for allegedly attacking her husband, soap-opera star Ross Kemp. No charges were filed.

Brooks's second marriage, to former racehorse trainer Charlie Brooks, came in 2009. The couple have been known to rub shoulders with some of Britain's most prominent politicians and appear at society events from Windsor Castle to Wimbledon.

Brooks cultivated a close friendship not just with Cameron of the Conservative Party, but with the wives of ex-Prime Ministers Gordon Brown and Tony Blair of Labour.

Nation

Casey Anthony lies low on first day of freedom

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—This is what freedom looks like for Casey Anthony: $537.68 from her jail account, no job, estranged parents, a criminal record, lawsuits pending against her and the scorn of multitudes who think she got away with murder.

She quickly gave reporters the slip after walking out of jail Sunday, but whatever life she manages to build for herself will be lived under a media microscope and the shadow of countless threats.

Experts who have helped other notorious defendants through rough times say she will have opportunities as well, but it won't be easy for the 25-year-old, who was found not guilty of killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, but convicted of lying to investigators.

With her hair in a bun, Casey Anthony walked out the front door of an Orlando-area jail shortly after midnight, wearing a pink T-shirt, blue jeans and sneakers, and escorted by sheriff's deputies holding semi-automatic rifles. Protesters shouted "baby killer" and "you suck" as she climbed into an SUV.

The vehicle sped away and darted into a parking garage at a building where one of her attorneys has offices. Where she went next is unknown.

Soon after her release, there was police activity at Orlando Executive Airport as two vehicles pulled up to a twin-engine private jet bound for Columbus, Ohio, but no one saw Anthony get out and onto the plane. Ohio is the home state of Anthony's parents, but an official at the Columbus airport said the aircraft was only carrying golfers back from a Florida vacation.

"Casey is in good hands," said Todd Macaluso, a former member of Anthony's defense team who declined to comment further.

Her lead attorney, Jose Baez, did not respond Sunday to email and phone messages left by The Associated Press, nor did other lawyers on her defense team and those representing her father and mother.

Another former Anthony lawyer, Terry Lenamon, said he had no clue where she was headed, and that probably only a few people close to her knew.

"I wouldn't want anyone to know," he said. "I think she needs to go underground and I think she needs to spend some time to get her life back together."

Anthony's July 5 acquittal shocked and enraged many around the country who had been following the case since Caylee's 2008 disappearance. Anger has spilled onto social media sites and elsewhere. Her legal team said on Friday it had received an emailed death threat with a manipulated photo showing their client with a bullet hole in her forehead.

AP

HEAT WAVE

Madison Hawkins, 8, enjoys the cool water and hot sun on Monday as she lays on the steps of The Passage in Chattanooga, Tenn. Heat advisories and warnings were in place in 17 states, from Texas to Michigan, as temperatures and humidity combined to make being outside uncomfortable for millions. In Oklahoma City, forecasters expected another day of 100-degree heat Sunday, which would be the 27th day this year the city has reached 100 or above. The city is on pace to break its record for such days—50 set in 1980—with triple-digit heat possible through September. It's even worse in western Oklahoma, where temperatures at 110 or above have been common in recent weeks.

Whither astronauts? Corps shrinks as shuttles stop

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's mighty astronaut corps has become a shadow of what it once was. And it's only going to get smaller.

It's down to 60 from an all-time high of 149 just a decade ago, with more departures coming once Atlantis returns this week from the very last space shuttle voyage.

With no replacement on the horizon for the shuttle, astronauts are bailing fast, even though the International Space Station will need crews for at least another decade.

The commander of Discovery's last flight back in March, Steven Lindsey? Gone to a company whose proposed commercial spacecraft resembles a mini-shuttle; his last day at NASA was Friday.

The skipper of Endeavour's last mission in May, Mark Kelly? Retiring in another few months to write a memoir with his wounded congresswoman wife, Gabrielle Giffords.

The captain of Atlantis, Christopher Ferguson, assured The Associated Press from orbit late last week that he'll be sticking around after this final shuttle journey of them all. At least one of his crew, though, isn't so sure.

After spending her childhood wanting to be an astronaut—and achieving that goal in 1996—Atlantis astronaut Sandra Magnus now has to figure out what the next chapter holds.

"Now that I'm an astronaut, the whole idea of what I want to do when I grow up comes back full circle," said Magnus, a scientist and former space station resident who's flown in space three times.

What a difference a decade makes.

NASA's fabled astronaut corps numbered 149 in 2000-2001, the biggest group ever. Then shuttles were zooming back and forth building the space station, and a crew was being groomed to fly aboard Columbia to the Hubble Space Telescope. Now the space station is finished, Columbia is gone and the 30-year shuttle program is ending.

These days, chief astronaut Peggy Whitson finds herself on overdrive, working hard to keep up the morale at Houston's Johnson Space Center, astronaut headquarters, while trying to convince outsiders that America still needs a robust astronaut corps in the shuttle-less era.

After all, she's got a space station to staff.

Two Americans usually are among the six people living on the orbiting lab at any given time, hitching rides up and down on Russian Soyuz capsules. Private U.S. companies hope to take over this taxi job in three to five years, freeing NASA up to explore true outer space. First the goal was the moon, now it's an asteroid and Mars.

"It's a very dynamic time, and a lot of folks aren't real comfortable with all the uncertainties," Whitson said. "None of us are."

ACROSS THE NATION

Tour bus crashes in western NY; at least 12 hurt

BATH, N.Y. (AP)—State police say a tour bus has crashed on Interstate 390 in western New York's Steuben County, injuring at least 12 people and shutting down the highway. The crash happened Sunday night about 55 miles southeast of Rochester. A spokeswoman at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester says three patients were brought there by helicopter and one by ambulance. A spokesman at Noyes Memorial Hospital in Danville says eight were brought there. Neither state police nor the sheriff's office would give details on the crash.

Epic traffic fears disappear as LA freeway reopens

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The event that many feared would be the "Carmageddon" of epic traffic jams cruised calmly to a finish Sunday, with bridge work on the Los Angeles roadway completed nearly a full day ahead of schedule and officials reopening a 10-mile stretch of the busy freeway. Drivers honked their horns and waved from car windows as traffic started moving in all 10 lanes of Interstate 405 just after noon for the first time since being shut down at midnight Friday. There were no major problems since the freeway was closed, and the biggest worry of all—that the work would spill into the area's always rough Monday morning commute, was set aside.

Herman Cain: Communities have right to ban mosques

Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain said Sunday that communities have a right to ban Islamic mosques. Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," the former Godfather's Pizza CEO said protests and legal challenges to a planned mosque in Tennessee city are an example of local residents pushing back. Cain said his view doesn't amount to religious discrimination because he says Muslims are trying to inject Shariah law into the U.S. Shariah is a set of core principles that most Muslims recognize and a series of rulings from religious scholars. It covers many areas of life and different sects have different versions and interpretations of the code. ***(AP)***

Asia

Police prepare sketch of Mumbai blast suspect

NEW DELHI (AP)—Investigators have prepared a sketch of a suspect they want to question over the three deadly bomb blasts that shook India's financial hub Mumbai, police said Sunday.

The drawing composed from eyewitness accounts would be circulated among officials investigating the blasts but would not immediately be released to the public, a police official said on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Meanwhile, a man picked up by police for questioning in connection with the blasts died Sunday in Chembur, a Mumbai suburb. Faiz Usmani's family alleged that he was tortured during the interrogation.

Police denied the charge but ordered an investigation.

"He was brought for questioning by the Chembur unit of Mumbai police. He was suffering from hypertension. The allegations of torture by police are absolutely untrue," said Nisar Tamboli, a police spokesman.

Police were making incremental progress in the investigations into the three blasts Wednesday that killed 19 people and wounded 130 others.

All three bombs that exploded at three crowded places in downtown Mumbai were packed inside metallic containers and triggered by digital timing devices, said Rakesh Maria, a top investigator.

However, Maria, who heads the anti-terrorism squad in Maharashtra state, said investigators were not in a position to name any terrorist outfit as being responsible for the blasts. Mumbai is the capital of Maharashtra state.

On Sunday, police arrested a man in the western Indian state of Gujarat who was allegedly in possession of 10 crude bombs. The man was being questioned, but there were no immediate details on the bombs.

Police in at least six states were involved in the investigation focused on possible links between the blasts and terrorist groups, Maria said.

Investigators have been questioning two suspected members of the Indian Mujahideen, a banned Muslim terrorist group with links to Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan-based militant outfit that has claimed past terrorist attacks that used similar explosives.

The blasts were the deadliest terrorist attack in Mumbai since a 2008 siege in which 166 people were killed in an assault that lasted three days.

No group has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombings.

BIGGEST ERUPTION YET

Mount Lokon spews volcanic ash as seen from Tomohon, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, Sunday, July 17, 2011. The volcano in central Indonesia unleashed its most powerful eruption yet Sunday, spewing hot ash and smoke thousands of feet (meters) into the air and sending panicked villagers racing back to emergency shelters. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Mount Lokon, located on northern Sulawesi island, has been dormant for years but rumbled back to life late last week. A series of overnight blasts Thursday and Friday claimed one life—a woman who suffered a heart attack as she fled.

AP

2 kidnapped Americans allowed to talk to family

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants holding an American woman and her son in the southern Philippines allowed them to talk briefly to their family in the United States as proof they were alive and to press a ransom demand, two security officials said Sunday.

The cellphone call to the U.S. was traced from southern Basilan province, where Abu Sayyaf gunmen were suspected to have brought Philippine-born U.S. citizen Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann, her 14-year-old son and 19-year-old Filipino nephew after seizing them at gunpoint Tuesday from a nearby island village, the two senior Philippine officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Government forces have been deployed to ensure the captives are not moved far from the mountainous area where they believe up to 100 Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen were holding the hostages, one of the officials told The Associated Press by telephone.

Kidnappings for ransom have long been a problem in the impoverished region and are blamed mostly on the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, a group also notorious for beheadings and bombings.

U.S.-backed offensives have weakened the group, which is blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization, but it remains a key security threat.

Mayor Celso Lobregat of southern Zamboanga City said without elaborating earlier that U.S. authorities have informed Philippine officials that the kidnappers called the captives' family and demanded money.

Lobregat declined to disclose other details, including if the kidnappers identified themselves.

"There was a call to the family, and a demand was made," Lobregat told The AP.

Regional police commander Felicisimo Khu Jr. said investigators were aware of the huge ransom demand.

Lunsmann, a 41-year-old veterinarian who lives in Virginia, was born to a Muslim family in a village on Sacol Island off Zamboanga, where she and her son were vacationing with relatives when they were snatched, Khu said.

Vietnamese hold anti-China march despite crackdown

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A small group of Vietnamese marched Sunday to denounce China's actions in the South China Sea after about two dozen other protesters were rounded up by police, shoved onto buses and driven away.

Those permitted to rally were herded by police in riot gear away from an area near the Chinese Embassy and some were later detained. The other group—some who protested briefly and others who were detained before starting—were hauled away on buses with dark windows. One man was kicked several times on the ground by police and carried away.

Demonstrations are rare in communist Vietnam and typically quashed quickly by police, but authorities have allowed the anti-China protests to take place for several weeks. However, last weekend, protesters, along with journalists covering the event for foreign news agencies, including The Associated Press, were briefly detained.

Vietnam and China have been at increasing odds since May over territory in the South China Sea claimed by both countries. Hanoi has twice accused Beijing of hindering oil exploration activities off Vietnam's coast. China alleges Vietnam put Chinese fishermen at risk near the disputed Spratly islands, which are claimed all or in part by both countries and several other Asian nations.

Tempers appeared to be cooling after the two sides met late last month and announced plans to negotiate to try to reach a peaceful resolution. But last week, a border official alleged that a Vietnamese fishing boat was chased and attacked by Chinese soldiers near the contested Paracel islands, also claimed by both countries. The boat captain was beaten but not seriously injured, according to the official.

Protesters on Sunday shouted "Down with China!" while carrying signs in English, Chinese and Vietnamese. One sign read: "China stop invading Vietnam. Stop murdering Vietnamese fishermen."

Last week, a group of nearly 20 outspoken Vietnamese scholars and former officials, including a former ambassador to China, submitted a petition to the country's leaders calling for more transparency regarding the ongoing spat with China and for the government to allow peaceful protests.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Killing of adviser another blow to Afghan leader

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Gunmen strapped with explosives killed a close adviser to Afghan President Hamid Karzai and a member of parliament on Sunday in another insurgent strike against the Afghan leader's inner circle. Jan Mohammed Khan was an adviser to Karzai on tribal issues and was close to the president, a fellow Pashtun. Two men wearing suicide bomb vests and armed with guns attacked Khan's home in the western Kabul district of Karti Char. Khan, who was governor of the Pashtun-dominated Uruzgan province in the south from 2002 until March 2006, was shot along with Uruzgan lawmaker Mohammed Ashim Watanwal, the official said.

Chinese toddler who fell 10 stories sings to mom

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese press report says a toddler who fell 10 stories and survived after being caught by a passer-by has been singing songs. It's seen as progress the little girl is recovering from her extensive head injuries. The 2-year-old girl nicknamed Niu Niu fell from her family's apartment window in eastern Zhejiang province on July 2. She woke up from a 10-day coma earlier this week. Her mother says Niu Niu has sung four songs to her. Xinhua News Agency quoted her mother Sunday as saying it indicates her brain functions are recovering. Her mother had sung several of Niu Niu's favorite songs to try to wake her from the coma. Xinhua quoted her doctor as saying the left side of her body is still partially paralyzed, but there is hope she will recover.

1 dead, 150,000 affected in northeast India floods

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Heavy monsoon rains have led the mighty Brahmaputra River to overflow its banks and submerge scores of villages in India's remote northeastern state of Assam. District magistrate Anwaruddin Chowdhury says more than 150,000 people have been hit by floods in three districts of northern Assam. Chowdhury said Sunday at least one person died after he was swept away by the strong current when he jumped in the river to try to rescue his cattle. Relief agencies are distributing rice, lentils and salt to tens of thousands of people in temporary shelters set up in schools, offices and other government buildings.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi to attend hero father's memorial

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A spokesman for Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi says the democracy icon will attend a government memorial ceremony for her revered father for the first time in nine years. Suu Kyi's father Gen. Aung San is an independence hero who was assassinated in 1947. Suu Kyi has spent much of the last decade detained by authorities in the repressive nation. She was freed from house arrest in November. Her spokesman Han Thar Myint told reporters Monday the government had invited her to attend Tuesday's ceremony at a mausoleum near the famous Shwedagon pagoda in Myanmar's main city Yangon.

Australian hospital gives 2 mothers wrong babies

SYDNEY (AP)—Staff at an Australian hospital accidentally mixed up two newborns and gave them to the wrong mothers, who breast-fed the infants before the mistake was caught, the hospital said Monday. A family member of one of the mothers noticed something was wrong and alerted staff after the mothers had been with the wrong infants for more than eight hours Friday, said Stephen Roberts, CEO of St. John of God Hospital, which is in the city of Geelong in southeastern Victoria state. In a statement, the hospital said the babies spent Thursday night in the nursery and were given to the wrong mothers early Friday morning. The infants' identification bracelets were not checked against the ID bracelets on the mothers.

World

Gadhafi rallies the troops against the world

ZAWIYA, Libya (AP)—For three days running, the rallies have been carnival-like affairs with bands, horseback riders and even a camel dyed green. At each gathering, thousands of delirious supporters of Moammar Gadhafi cheered as the brother leader's defiant speeches boomed from massive speakers. As NATO hammers away at the Libyan leader's defenses and the United States and its allies throw their support behind the rebels, Gadhafi is trying to boost morale in what is left of his nation and show his people he is still strong and his opponents are few.

"These are the millions of Libyan people and the picture is now complete. Who else remains? Less than 100,000 are trapped in Benghazi, Derna and Tobruk," Gadhafi said in one of the speeches, referring to rebel-held cities in the east.

Bolstering that image is all the more pressing after the U.S. and more than 30 nations recognized Gadhafi's enemies during a meeting Friday in Istanbul, potentially freeing up billions in frozen oil money that could be put into rebel hands.

NATO jets destroyed a military storage facility and other targets in Tripoli's eastern outskirts early Sunday, and rebel attacks on the eastern oil city of Brega stretched into their fourth day, with reports of pitched battles in the residential areas.

Rebel spokesman Mohammed al-Rajaly said his forces had liberated the northeastern half of the city and were moving against government forces hold up in the southwestern part.

The latest pro-Gadhafi rally was held Saturday in the shattered city of Zawiya, where outgunned rebels held off government forces for weeks at the start of the rebellion against Gadhafi's four-decade rule in February.

Crowds cheered in the square, lined with buildings scarred by bullets and tank fire and whose interior walls still bear scribbled graffiti calling Gadhafi a dog.

Last week there were demonstrations in Tripoli and the southern city of Sebha and then three in a row starting Thursday, in Ajaylat near the Tunisian border, Zlitan, not far from rebel-held Misrata and then Zawiya.

Each drew up to 10,000 cheering supporters—though Gadhafi described the crowds as millions-strong and sending a message of defiance to NATO and the world. Libya has a population of about 6.5 million.

For foreign journalists, bused to each site and carefully monitored by government minders, it was impossible to tell the sincerity of the screaming crowds in each town or if they were really even from there.

On the road to Zlitan, west of Tripoli, buses and trucks filled with flag-waving supporters sped to the site of Friday's demonstration. At the rally, a man rode through the crowd on a camel dyed green, the color of the Libyan flag.

In Ajaylat on Thursday, some members of the crowd who relentlessly chanted "God, Moammar, Libya and that's it" afterward admitted they had come from Tripoli, an hour and a half drive away.

Zawiya, however, remained the biggest mystery, for in this city of 200,000, residents fought tooth and nail against Gadhafi's forces before it was retaken with heavy weaponry.

Next to the cheering crowds, horsemen in traditional dress gave children rides in a sandy vacant lot where once the mosque stood that townspeople took refuge in before it was bombarded and razed by government forces. Many townspeople just silently watched the demonstrators in the main square, but declined to speak with journalists. The rally also featured a much heavier security presence than past events.

FOREST FIRE AP

Workers try to extinguish a fire outside the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, Sunday, July 17, 2011. A wildfire tore through a forest on the outskirts of Jerusalem on Sunday, moving within several hundred yards (meters) of Israel's national Holocaust memorial and sending a huge plume of smoke billowing over parts of the holy city. Fire service spokesman Boaz Rakia said the fire was under control at nightfall. He said Yad Vashem was not in danger. He said investigators were considering the possibility of arson because of reports that the blaze erupted in several places at once.

Egypt's iconic antiquities chief fired

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's antiquities minister, whose trademark Indiana Jones hat made him one the country's best known figures around the world, was fired Sunday after months of pressure from critics who attacked his credibility and accused him of having been too close to the regime of ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

Zahi Hawass, long chided as publicity loving and short on scientific knowledge, lost his job along with about a dozen other ministers in a Cabinet reshuffle meant to ease pressure from protesters seeking to purge remnants of Mubarak's regime.

"He was the Mubarak of antiquities," said Nora Shalaby, an activist and archaeologist. "He acted as if he owned Egypt's antiquities, and not that they belonged to the people of Egypt."

Despite the criticism, he was credited with helping boost interest in archaeology in Egypt and tourism, a pillar of the country's economy.

But after Mubarak's ouster on Feb. 11 in a popular uprising, pressure began to build for him to step down.

Hawass was among a list of Cabinet ministers protesters wanted to see gone because they were associated with the former regime.

And archaeology students and professors blasted him for what they saw as his lack of serious research.

Shalaby said Hawass didn't tolerate criticism. She said most his finds were about self-promotion, with many "rediscoveries" in search of the limelight.

Hawass prided himself in being the "keeper and guardian" of Egypt's heritage. He told an Egyptian lifestyle magazine, Enigma, in 2009 that George Lucas, the maker of the "Indian Jones" films, had come to visit him in Egypt "to meet the real Indiana Jones."

Hawass, 64, started out as an inspector of antiquities in 1969 and rose to become one of the most recognizable names in Egyptology. He became the general director of antiquities at the Giza plateau in the late 1980s, before being named Egypt's top archaeologist in 2002.

In one of Mubarak's final official acts as president, Hawass' position was elevated to that of a Cabinet minister. After Mubarak's ouster, Hawass submitted his resignation but he was reinstated before finally being removed Sunday.

His name has been associated with most new archaeological digs in Egypt, with grand discoveries such as the excavation of the Valley of the Golden Mummies in Bahariya Oasis in 1999 and the discovery of the mummy of Egypt's Queen Hatshepsut almost a decade later.

He was also a staple on the Discovery Channel, which accompanied him on the find of Hatshepsut's mummy. He started his own reality show on the History Channel called "Chasing the Mummies." The channel introduces him as "the man behind the mummies."

Hawass has long campaigned to bring home ancient artifacts spirited out of the country during colonial times. He said since he became top archaeologist, he managed to recover 5,000 artifacts.

Syrian troops descend on restive border town

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops flown in on helicopters descended on an eastern town near the Iraqi border Sunday where scores of soldiers defected to join the four-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad, witnesses and activists said.

Assad has unleashed military and security forces on restive towns across the country to crush the unrest, but the uprising has been building steadily. Friday saw the largest protests yet with hundreds of thousands turning out nationwide to challenge the president's rule. About 30 people were killed on Friday and Saturday authorities rounded up more than 500.

On Sunday, residents in the eastern town of al-Boukamal said about 150 soldiers arrived in helicopters, but there were no immediate reports of violence. The pro-government Al-Watan newspaper reported Sunday that a military operation in the town was imminent.

Activists reported that dozens of soldiers defected and joined protesters in al-Boukamal late Saturday. The crowds chanted "the people and the army are one!"—echoing the rallying cries heard during Egypt's revolution.

The defections were reported by Syria-based human rights activist Mustafa Osso and Omar Idilbi, a spokesman for the Local Coordination Committees, which help organize and track the protests.

Both cited witnesses on the ground to back up the defection reports.

The government has banned most foreign media and restricted local coverage, making it nearly impossible to confirm witness reports independently.

But a video posted on YouTube, purportedly from al-Boukamal, showed scores of people marching and standing on two army tanks and one armored personnel carrier. No soldiers appeared in the video but the residents were chanting "the people and the army, one hand!"

There have been previous reports of army defections, although it is difficult to gauge how widespread they are. Assad, and his father who ruled before him, stacked key military posts with members of their minority Alawite sect, melding the fate of the army and the regime.

The army has a clear interest in protecting the regime because they fear revenge attacks and persecution should the country's Sunni majority gain the upper hand.

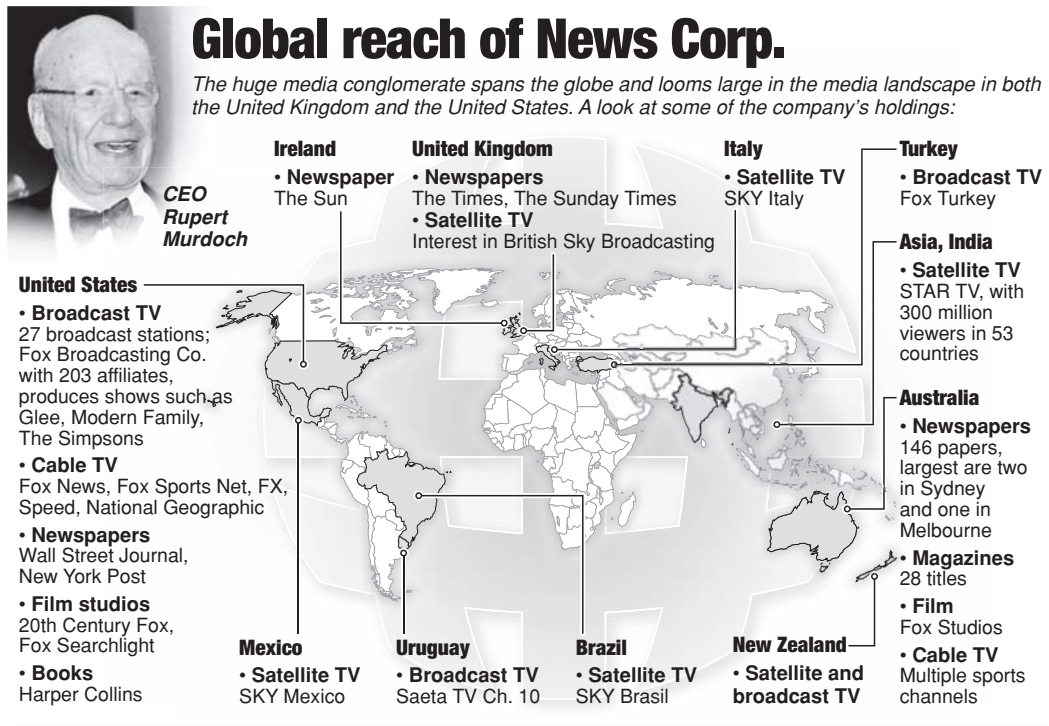
Assad is counting on this unwavering loyalty now that Syrians are joining the protest movement in growing numbers and from a broader cross-section of society.

Syrian troops also stormed a town near the Lebanese border Sunday.

The Local Coordinating Committees said some 2,000 military and security forces stormed into Zabadani, some 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Damascus, after cutting the town's telephone services, Internet connections and electricity.

Activists say the government's crackdown has killed some 1,600 people since March, most of them unarmed protesters. But the regime disputes the toll and blames a foreign conspiracy for the unrest, saying religious extremists—not true reform-seekers—are behind it.

Focus


Global reach of News Corp.
The huge media conglomerate spans the globe and looms large in the media landscape in both the United Kingdom and the United States. A look at some of the company's holdings:
CEO Rupert Murdoch
Ireland
• Newspaper
The Sun
United Kingdom
• Newspapers
The Times, The Sunday Times
• Satellite TV
Interest in British Sky Broadcasting
Italy
• Satellite TV
SKY Italy
Turkey
• Broadcast TV
Fox Turkey
Asia, India
• Satellite TV
STAR TV, with 300 million viewers in 53 countries
Australia
• Newspapers
146 papers, largest are two in Sydney and one in Melbourne
• Magazines
28 titles
• Film
Fox Studios
• Cable TV
Multiple sports channels
United States
• Broadcast TV
27 broadcast stations; Fox Broadcasting Co. with 203 affiliates, produces shows such as Glee, Modern Family, The Simpsons
• Cable TV
Fox News, Fox Sports Net, FX, Speed, National Geographic
• Newspapers
Wall Street Journal, New York Post
• Film studios
20th Century Fox, Fox Searchlight
• Books
Harper Collins
Mexico
• Satellite TV
SKY Mexico
Uruguay
• Broadcast TV
Saeta TV Ch. 10
Brazil
• Satellite TV
SKY Brasil
New Zealand
• Satellite and broadcast TV
Web presence Fox.com | FoxSports.com | hulu.com (online video) | ign.com (gaming) | AmericanIdol.com
Company statistics
Founded 1922
Primary operations in the United States, United Kingdom, continental Europe, Australia, Asia, Latin America
Revenue $33 billion in 2010
Employees About 51,000
Total assets $60 billion as of March 31
Source: News Corp., Hoover's, Standard & Poors, MCT Photo Service Graphic: Robert Dorrell
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Tables turn on Murdoch as scandal rocks his empire

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—To his many enemies, Rupert Murdoch is getting his comeuppance.

Murdoch's tabloid newspapers long have reveled in the misdeeds of others with salacious photos and pun-packed headlines. Now, one of the world's most powerful media executives is learning what it's like to be enveloped in his own scandal.

"There is a feeling that Murdoch has been king of the world for too long and it's about time that somebody brought him back to Earth," says Mungo MacCallum, a political journalist and commentator who once worked for a Murdoch-owned newspaper, The Australian.

But no one is calling press conferences to gloat about Murdoch's troubles. Even his bitterest media rivals are keeping quiet.

Liberty Media chief John Malone, who engaged in media-mogul head butting with Murdoch over his stake in Murdoch's News Corp and other issues, did not return a message seeking comment that was left with a spokeswoman.

CNN founder Ted Turner, who once challenged Murdoch to a boxing match in Las Vegas, was unavailable, according to a spokesman.

New York Daily News Publisher Mort Zuckerman, whose newspaper fights every day for front page dominance with the Post for New York's tabloid audience also did not return a message seeking comment.

It's hardly surprising, of course. Despite a scandal that has claimed two of his top executives and led him to close one of his British tabloids, Murdoch still runs News Corp., one of the world's most imposing media empires. There's no percentage in gloating publicly about the scandal if you still have to compete—and perhaps do business—with the 80-year-old Murdoch.

But others aren't as charitable. In recent days, Murdoch has drawn comparisons to a cruel monarch, Richard Nixon, even the devil.

The scandal centers on revelations that journalists at his top-selling British tabloid, News of the World, gathered information through a variety of possibly illegal endeavors that included phone hacking and bribery of police officers. Last week, he closed the 168-year-old tabloid and withdrew a hard-fought bid for 100 percent ownership of prized satellite TV carrier British Sky Broadcasting. He even met with and apologized to the family of a missing, murdered girl whose phone was hacked by News Corp. journalists.

On Friday, he accepted resignations from two top News Corp. executives, Rebekah Brooks, who ran News International, which controlled News of the World and the company's other British newspapers, and Dow Jones & Co. CEO Les Hinton, who used to run the same unit.

The unfolding saga threatens to expose Murdoch and his company to further scorn and legal troubles. News Corp. stock has shed billions of dollars in value. And criminal investigations are under way in Britain, while the FBI has begun a preliminary inquiry in the U.S., where the company's holdings include the nation's largest newspaper, The Wall Street Journal, the New York Post, the Fox TV network and the 20th Century Fox movie studio.

For now, Murdoch's job as News Corp.'s CEO is secure because he controls 40 percent of the company's voting stock through a family trust and the board is stacked with directors that shareholder activists have long criticized as his cronies. He also remains one of the world's richest people, although a fortune pegged at $7.6 billion in March by Forbes magazine has been clipped by a 13 percent decline in News Corp.'s stock during the past two weeks.

But the British lawmakers who have traditionally supported Murdoch rather than risk being pilloried in the pages of his newspapers no longer seem to be in his corner because their fear of retaliation is fading. He will surely face tough questions Tuesday when he appears before a Parliament committee eager to grill him about the phone hacking and bribery allegations.

"All the powerful allies that used to help him, either publicly or behind the scenes, have faded to the sidelines," says Eric Boehlert, a senior fellow at Media Matters, a liberal group that frequently criticizes Fox News for what it says is biased and inaccurate reporting. "He is on his own, and he is in over his head."

Boehlert likens the crisis and widespread antipathy surrounding Murdoch to the unraveling of Richard Nixon's presidency in 1974 as details of the Watergate cover-up were revealed. Like Nixon then, Murdoch is in "free-fall mode. There is nothing he can do to stop this story," Boehlert says.

The lack of control over the situation seemingly bothers the notoriously autocratic Murdoch, who told The Wall Street Journal on Thursday that he was "getting annoyed" with the media's unrelenting coverage of the scandal.

If the scandal widens, newspaper analyst Ken Doctor believes Murdoch eventually will have to step down as CEO, though he could still retain the chairman's title.

Disgraced newspaper publisher Conrad Black, whose former ownership of The Daily Telegraph turned him into a bitter Murdoch rival, thinks his old foe is more like another polarizing historical figure—French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

Like Napoleon, Murdoch is a "great bad man," Black wrote in a column Wednesday for the Financial Times. "It is as wrong to dispute his greatness as his badness."

Black, who was convicted of fraud in 2007 and still has some prison time to serve, wrote that it would be "astonishing" if Murdoch's British newspapers didn't commit crimes while "reveling in the climate of immunity that has been the group's modus operandi for decades."

Although he stopped short of calling him a crook, Black lambasted Murdoch as an "an exploiter of the discomfort of others" and "a malicious myth-maker, an assassin of the dignity of others and of respected institutions, all in the guise of anti-elitism."

The criticism exemplifies Britain's widespread antipathy toward Murdoch, says Porter Bibb, a former media executive and now managing partner of advisory firm Mediatech Capital Partners.

"The people who are gloating now are much more in the U.K.," Bibb says. "He's really browbeaten the competition, most specifically the politicians."

Murdoch also is despised by union workers who still remember how he used a new printing plant to foil a printers' strike in the gritty London district of Wapping in 1986 and 1987. Nic Oatridge, who lived in the area, recalls seeing police regularly harass and arrest picketers while making sure delivery trucks got into and out of the printing plant. That fed his suspicions that the police were in Murdoch's pocket.

"I'm pleased he's been exposed," Oatridge, 55, says. "Something we've always believed was going on 25 years ago is finally going to be visible."

In the U.S., much of the ill will toward Murdoch has stemmed from the belief that he uses his media properties, especially the Fox News cable channel, to promote a conservative political agenda. "There is essentially a partisan reaction against Murdoch and his use of right-wing politics," Doctor, the newspaper analyst, says.

Fox News isn't covering Murdoch's scandal as aggressively as other outlets. From July 4 through July 13, Fox aired 30 segments about the story, according to an analysis by Media Matters. Rival CNN showed 109 segments and MSNBC 71.

When Murdoch bought Dow Jones, parent company of the Wall Street Journal, for $5.7 billion in 2007, there were fears the Journal's quality would deteriorate. But Paul Steiger, who left as the Journal's top editor shortly after the acquisition was completed and started a nonprofit journalism service called ProPublica, credits News Corp. for investing in the newspaper to maintain its quality and increase its circulation.

"The hacking scandal in London makes me very sad, for the impact it may have on journalism in general," Steiger wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "But I see no evidence it has affected the Journal."

Even so, some members of the family in control of the company that sold the Journal to Murdoch seized on the scandal to express seller's remorse. "We did a deal with the devil and it really saddens me," one of the family members, Bill Cox III, wrote in an email excerpt published by ProPublica on July 13.

Hinton, 67, became the first of Murdoch's U.S. executives swept out in the scandal. He resigned Friday from his post as CEO of Dow Jones & Co. and publisher of The Wall Street Journal, ending a 52-year career working for Murdoch. Hinton was executive chairman of the division that included News of the World during some of the years in which the phone hacking occurred. He had assured British parliament in 2007 and 2009 that the hacking had been limited to a rogue reporter, an assertion that proved to be untrue. Hinton joined The Associated Press' board of directors in April.

In his resignation statement, Hinton said he never knew about the rampant hacking at the British tabloid.

MacCallum, the former reporter for The Australian newspaper, finds it hard to believe News Corp. executives weren't aware of what was going on at News of the World. "In the Murdoch organization, everybody knew what was going on," he says.

Yet he doubts Murdoch himself would condone something as underhanded as phone hacking. "Murdoch's never been a devious back-stabbing operator," MacCallum says. "If he came after you, you knew he was coming after you."

Overdrive

2012 Audi A7: Sporty, quick and well-connected

2012 Audi A7: Sporty, quick and well-connected. MCT

By BARRY SPYKER
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Talk about being "linked in." While I'm finding my way with the Audi A7's intuitive Google Earth navigation and Google Local search (who asks for directions anymore?), the guys in the back seat are surfing the Internet and checking their email.

It's called Audi Connect, and Audi says much of it marks an industry first. Truth is, Audi is breaking new ground with a number of innovative features these days; they're first to market with standard Wi-Fi connectivity, too.

But forgive me, I've buried the lead: The 2012 Audi A7 has exceptional looks, sporty lines and it's a heckuva fun ride, too. A supercharged ride. One that will spring from 0 to 60 in 5.6 seconds and up to 100 mph in just over 13 seconds.

The A7 is a different sort of animal. With its sloping roofline, it could fool you into thinking it's a sport coupe. But it is a four-door luxury sedan with the practicality of a large, rear hatchback for easy access to the golf clubs.

The next-generation A6 shares much of the underpinnings here, but the A7 is longer and wider.

Flying up the ramp and onto the interstate is a brisk run with its 3.0-liter V-6 fitted with a belt-driven supercharger and direct fuel injection. It's the same engine as the current A6 and it's good for 295 horses and 325 pound-feet of torque. Top speed is factory-limited at 130 mph.

Regulating the speed is a smooth-shifting eight-speed transmission that gets some credit for the estimated 28 mpg on the highway—if you behave. The Tiptronic tranny also lets you select any of those eight gears manually.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of its acceleration is in the midrange torque. Fifty-to-70 mph can be had in 3.4 seconds.

Riding the uneven roads is better than in most Audi models, in spite of its rather stiff suspension. Handling is clean and predictable, and it can be pushed on the corners in spite of its size.

You can choose from four driving modes that make adjustments to the steering, tranny and engine. They're all good, and you just might find the "auto" mode quite satisfactory and not need to mess with the rest.

Steering is a little lightweight at slower speeds but responsive, too, making the twisty roads much fun. Braking is confident and even, and bringing this two-ton beauty to a halt is not a problem. Regulating the speed is a smooth-shifting eight-speed tranny.

Quattro all-wheel-drive is standard and offers superb grip. When conditions call for it, the system sends as much as 75 percent of the torque to the front and 85 percent to the rear.

While it's easy to bury yourself in the A7's performance, the inside is rather remarkable, too. Materials are superb in their look, feel and touch. Of course, interior materials have become a hallmark for Audi. They are excellent in every Audi I've driven.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price : $60,125 *(including destination charge)*
As tested: $81,530

Instruments with red needles and white digits are sharp looking and easy to read. The combination of layered oak, leather and aluminum trim is a sophisticated look. The perforated-leather seats are comfortable up front and have the gadgets to adjust them anywhere you wish. Rear seats are comfortable, too, and have plenty of legroom. The sloping roof, however, might confine the headroom of taller folks.

But no need to worry about visibility with that hatch—it's fine in every direction.

In the rear, there is ample cargo space at 24.5 cubic feet, and that expands to 49 cubic feet when you put down the split rear seats. And, with a hatchback, the cargo area is much easier to get into than a trunk.

On the other hand, the slanted roofline means you can't even stand a suitcase up. Well, just lay the back seats down and you're in business.

And what a great deal: The navigation, audio and phone systems are integrated as one and displayed on a pop-up screen. They can be controlled with a turn of the thumb wheel control and touchpad.

On the road, it's really hard to get into trouble with the A7's host of safety features. Adaptive cruise control slows you down if you get to close to the car in front. Night vision helps identify pedestrians or bicyclists ahead.

Plus, the blind-spot monitor stops you from making a bad lane switch, and a lane-keeper stops you from drifting. These features represent some of the most advanced safety innovations that exist right now.

The A7 is a beautiful car with an impressive ride. And a Sportback version emerges this summer so check that out, too.

Mishaps are possible with keyless ignition

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: We borrowed a neighbor's new car to run an errand and had a problem that I have not read about anywhere that you might want to address. She told us the car had a push-button for a starter and did not have a key, so she gave the key fob to my wife and we left.

I dropped my wife off at the grocery store and I went to the post office. I turned the car off using the button, and when I came out a few minutes later, the car would not start, since my wife had the key fob in her purse at the grocery store. I remember the car beeping when I drove away, but I did not know what it was trying to tell me. My wife had to take a cab to the post office and bring the key fob before the car would start again. It was inconvenient, not a crisis, but I feel like it could have been.—M.J., Lake Wales, Fla.

ANSWER: I agree. Even many inexpensive new vehicles have "keyless start," meaning you push the starter button and the engine starts as long as the key fob in inside the car—you never put a key in the ignition. But once the car is running, you can walk off with the fob and the car will continue to run. But once you turn off the car, it won't restart unless the fob is back in close proximity. All these "keyless" vehicles sound some sort of warning—beeps, chimes, whatever—but they vary, and there is typically a message on the dashboard that the fob is not in the car.

I still like ignition keys—I don't feel like I'm saving much time or energy with keyless starting, and if the key is in the ignition, I always know where it is. That said, I've written that opinion before and received a letter from a woman with severe arthritis who said not having to turn a key was a blessing, so that's at least one valid reason for it.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel *in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

WHEN TO FLUSH?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: I've seen where you recommend a transmission flush every 30,000 to 50,000 miles, and your Alldata automotive database even shows this at 15,000 for some vehicles. How is that reconciled with what the owner's manual says? For my Dodge Caravan, the recommended interval is 60,000 miles if you tow or provide taxi or police service. Otherwise, it says 120,000 miles. For my Ford Escape, the interval is 150,000 miles. Why does the owner's manual say this, the dealer says something else, and other shops have their own opinions? In my case I'm thinking 120,000 and 150,000, respectively, but there must be some middle ground between where I'm paying hundreds of dollars unnecessarily and where I still do enough to keep the vehicles going.

The second question is about the term "flush." My Dodge and Ford dealers both say you need the fluid changed (drop the pan, change the filter, replace the pan, top the fluid) and to never ever flush the transmission or it will cause a failure. I recently had a flush done on my Caravan at 66,000 miles using the transmission pump via the cooler lines to slowly replace the old fluid with new. It seems to me this shouldn't be a problem, but when I mentioned it to the dealer service guy, he berated me for ruining my transmission. What kind of flush do you think is best, and why do the dealers say this is wrong?

Answer: Excellent questions—thank you. And wouldn't you be surprised to be pulled over by a "soccer mom" squad car?

My thinking on all fluid changes on an automobile is framed by a single question: Who owns, pays for and is responsible for the vehicle, the owner or the carmaker? Second, fluid changes and flushes done before significant depletion, deterioration or oxidation of the fluid is cheap insurance against failure. It is for precisely this reason that carmakers recommend more frequent changes under "severe" service conditions. Paying $150 to $200 for a transmission fluid change or flush sounds much better to me than $2,500 for a new transmission.

There is evidence of problems caused by automatic transmission fluid changes or flushes at high mileage. Specifically, the detergent action of fresh automatic transmission fluid can dissolve or loosen oxidized deposits in the unit's hydraulic system, blocking the flow of fluid. That's why I suggest the 30,000-to-50,000-mile fluid flush intervals.

In terms of method, dropping the transmission pan for cleaning and installing a new filter, then topping up the fluid, is not a fluid change. It's a filter change. Exchanging 100 percent of the old fluid for new fluid via the transmission pump and cooler lines is a fluid flush that will remove old fluid and contaminants from the transmission—as long as it's done regularly.

I need to point out that many modern automatic transmissions are sealed and not user-serviceable. These require specialized equipment at dealerships and professional shops and are obviously more costly.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can you suggest a fix for our "squeal"? We have a '99 Olds Bravada, with the 4.3-liter engine, with a high-pitched squeal in the engine compartment.

I have tried two different new serpentine belts, replaced all equipment that is attached to the belt, and replaced the pulleys. The only pulley not replaced is the smooth pulley on the water pump. It's driving my wife nuts!

A: Start by identifying whether the squeal is due to belt slippage or a pulley and bearing. While taking care to keep fingers and clothing away from the belt, with the engine running and the "squeal" squealing, spray aerosol brake cleaner directly on the ribbed side of the belt first, then the smooth side right where it contacts the smooth water-pump pulley.

Did the squeal stop? If so, it's slippage or misalignment. If not, it's one of the ancillary devices driven by the belt. To identify which, carefully place the probe of a mechanic's stethoscope—or a long screwdriver or dowel rod—on the body of each device driven by the belt and listen for the squeal.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.*

Life & Style

'Movie in the Park' a resounding success

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and the USO held a successful Movie in the Park last July 8 at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater—a first ever on Saipan.

Lt. Gov Eloy Inos and his grandchildren, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, USO director Leigh Graham, and USO Center operations manager Vic Tano were on hand to make some short remarks to the crowd.

Around 500 people attended the event and watched animated film *Despicable Me*. The USO also gave out more than 400 children's DVDs for free. The Kagman High School Junior ROTC team presented the colors and performed their ceremonial drill.

Much of the night was spent listening to the laughter of children and adults alike as the cool winds enveloped the spectators.

The USO and the TSL Foundation hope to launch the event again in the near future and we would like to thank everybody that showed up as well. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parents and their children settle down to watch the movie *Despicable Me* at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on July 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parents with their children in tow look through the stacks of DVDs that were being given out during the first Movie in the Park at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on July 8. The USO event featured the movie *Despicable Me*.

Lt. Gov Eloy Inos and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan join the rest of the crowd at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater prior to the start of the movie *Despicable Me*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Kagman High School Junior ROTC team presents the colors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Organizers arrange more than 400 children's DVDs that were given out for free to those who watched the first Movie in the Park at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on July 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

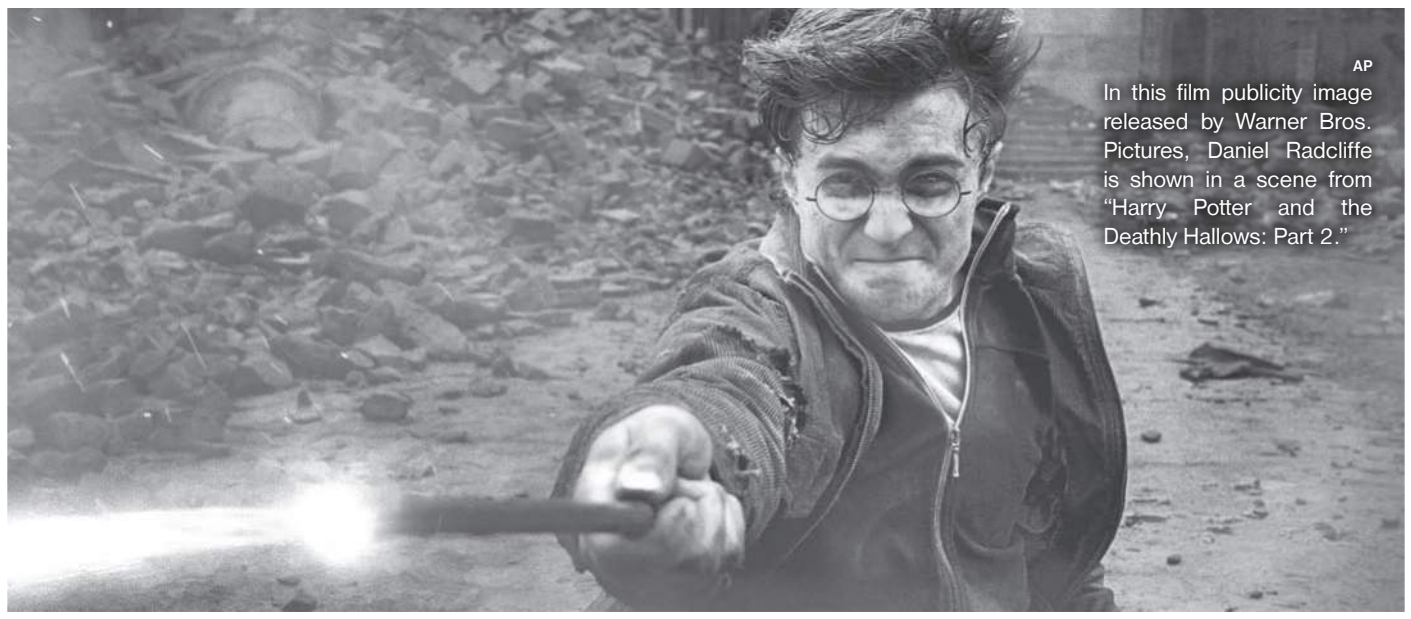
‘Potter’ takes down Batman with $168.6M weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The boy wizard has vanquished the dark knight and a band of pirates with a record-setting magic act at both the domestic and international box office.

Warner Bros. estimates that “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2” took in $168.6 million domestically from Friday to Sunday. That beats the previous best opening weekend of $158.4 million, also held by Warner Bros. for 2008’s Batman blockbuster “The Dark Knight.”

Overseas, the film added $307 million in 59 countries since it began rolling out Wednesday, topping the previous best international debut of $260.4 million set in May by Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.”

International results for “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” included record openings in Great Britain at $36.6 million and Australia at $26.7 million, according to Warner Bros.



AP

In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Daniel Radcliffe is shown in a scene from “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.”

Worldwide, “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” topped $475 million in a matter of days, putting it on course to become the franchise’s first billion-dollar worldwide hit.

“This will be the biggest ‘Harry Potter’ by far,” said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution at Warner Bros. “A billion dollars is definitely going to happen.”

The current franchise high is $974.8 million worldwide for the first film, “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” 10 years ago.

“Deathly Hallows: Part 2” does have the advantage of 3-D screenings, which cost a few dollars more than 2-D shows. Because of the higher 3-D price, plus regular inflation, “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” sold fewer tickets but took in more money than “The Dark Knight” over opening weekend.

Overall domestic revenue for the weekend totaled $263 million, a record for a non-holiday weekend, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

The “Harry Potter” finale also set a record for best opening day domestically Friday with $92.1 million, nearly $20 million ahead of the previous high for “The Twilight Saga: New Moon” two years ago.

Other records for “Deathly Hallows: Part 2”: best domestic gross for debut midnight shows at $43.5 million, topping the $30 million for last year’s “The Twilight Saga: Eclipse”; best domestic opening in huge-screen IMAX theaters with $15.5 million, surpassing the $12.2 million for last year’s “Alice in Wonderland”; and best worldwide IMAX debut with $23.5 million, beating the $20.4 million for “Transformers: Dark of the Moon” two weeks ago.

“This is just really a monumental event,” said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. “The 3-D component, plus the IMAX, plus it being the last `Harry Potter,’ it was just this convergence of things that created this incredible record.”

1. “**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2**,” $168.6 million ($307 million international).
2. “**Transformers: Dark of the Moon**,” $21.3 million ($39 million international).
3. “**Horrible Bosses**,” $17.6 million.
4. “**Zookeeper**,” $12.3 million.
5. “**Cars 2**,” $8.3 million ($12.4 million international).
6. “**Winnie the Pooh**,” $8 million.
7. “**Bad Teacher**,” $5.2 million.
8. “**Larry Crowne**,” $2.6 million.
9. “**Super 8**,” $1.92 million.
10. “**Midnight in Paris**,” $1.9 million.

Paramount’s third “Transformers” blockbuster, which had been No. 1 the previous two weekends, slipped to second-place with $21.3 million domestically. It remains the year’s top domestic hit with $302.8 million.

The latest “Transformers” added $39 million overseas, bringing its international haul to $460 million and worldwide total to $762.8 million. Among this year’s releases, that’s second only to “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides” at $1.03 billion.

“Deathly Hallows: Part 2” is the eighth and final film adapted from J.K. Rowling’s seven novels about the young wizard’s indoctrination into a secret world of sorcery and his epic battles with evil conjurer Voldemort.

Cast more than a decade ago at ages 10 and 11 as Harry and his pals Hermione and Ron, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint became instant celebrities. They grew up on screen, maturing from inexperienced children to adult actors whose earnest performances contributed to glowing reviews from critics for the finale.

The three now are moving on to adult roles, including Radcliffe’s stint on Broadway in “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.”

“It’s just a great way to exit, with the class and style that J.K. Rowling wrote into these stories,” Fellman said. “It comes to an end, as all goods thing do. When you have the opportunity to be a part of that, to work on all eight movies over 10 years, to see the kids, meeting them for the first time when they’re 10 and 11, and just now going to see Daniel Radcliffe at 22 years old in `How to Succeed in Business’ on Broadway. There’s a bittersweet part of it.”

Ryan Gosling remembers trying to impress 1st crush

NEW YORK (AP)—In his new romantic comedy “Crazy, Stupid, Love,” Ryan Gosling plays Jacob, the ultimate ladies’ man, who can get women into bed faster than it takes him to flash that winning smile and sparkling baby blues.

In real life, the Canadian actor started out as quite a romantic, entering a local air band contest to win the heart of his childhood crush, Melanie.

“We did a duet and we did ‘Uptown Girl.’ At the end she had to kiss me, and we won. I won a Max Headroom towel and I won that experience of getting to work with her. So it worked out,” the 30-year-old Gosling says. “That was probably pretty stupid. I got a lot of heat from it at school. But it was worth it.”

In the film, opening July 29, Gosling mentors hapless, recently separated Cal (played by Steve Carell) in the ways of picking up women at bars, giving him a trendy new look, a newfound confidence and ultimately a new lease on life.

Gosling

Gosling got his start on “The Mickey Mouse Club,” singing and dancing with the likes of Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake. He went on to earn critical acclaim for films including “Half Nelson” (2006), “Lars and The Real Girl” (2007) and last year’s indie darling “Blue Valentine,” which garnered him his second Golden Globe nomination.

Despite growing up in showbiz, the actor says he’s still not used to being recognized in public. He says Canadian fans are the most vocal when they spot him.

“The other day I was walking down the street and this lady was like, `Ryan, Canada!,’” and gestured to herself. “She was like, `I’m from Canada.’ I was like, `Oh, OK. Me too.’ It’s like if you don’t recognize the Canadian in them they’re upset. It’s like we’re Highlanders, you know? We’re all just supposed to know when we’re in the same vicinity.”

Gosling, who recently moved to New York from Los Angeles, says choosing roles is more like a “compulsion” than an art.

“In interviews they always ask you why you did things: Why’d you make that movie? Why’d you do that? I don’t really know. And the best way I can describe it is either like dancing—song comes on and you want to dance. You don’t know why, you just want to, so you do,” he explains. “I just always wanted to make movies. And I don’t really know why, I’m just compelled to do it.”

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Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows-Part2
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The final adventure in the Harry Potter film series follows Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they prepare for a final battle with Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who is determined to destroy Harry once and for all. In order to defeat the powerful wizard, they must find and destroy Voldemort's last and most elusive Horcrux—that is, the enchanted piece of soul allowing him to remain immortal—before his nefarious plans come to fruition.

Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Beloved zookeeper Griffin Keyes (Kevin James) decides to quit his job to dive into the dating pool, and finds that his animal friends have been harboring an incredible secret in this comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click). Griffin is a single guy who loves his job at the Franklin Park Zoo. He has a special bond with the animals, yet he can't help but feel lonely each night when he returns to an empty house.

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Colin Farrell, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Charlie Day star in this workplace comedy about three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster. Seth Gordon (The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters) directs a screenplay written by Michael Markowitz, Jonathan Goldstein, and John Francis Daley.

Monte Carlo
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Cars 2
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
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'Cash Cab' taxi hits, kills Vancouver pedestrian

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—A replica taxi used in the Canadian version of the TV game show "Cash Cab" struck and killed a pedestrian after finishing production for the day in Vancouver.

Vancouver Police said a 61-year-old man from Surrey, B.C., died in a hospital shortly after being struck by the mock yellow cab late Friday night in the city's Downtown Eastside district. Police did not immediately release the victim's identity.

The accident happened as a producer was driving the replica cab back to a storage facility after filming for the day had been completed, said Andrew Burnstein, president of Castlewood Productions Inc., which produces the show's Canadian version.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim and his friends and his family." said Burnstein. "My heart also goes out to the driver of the vehicle, a member of our technical staff, who is shaken and devastated by this tragic accident, as is our entire team."

Vancouver Police Constable Lindsey Houghton said the circumstances leading to the accident were still being determined and no charges have been filed so far.

On "Cash Cab," broadcast in North America on the Discovery Channel, unassuming people who flag down a replica yellow taxi become instant contestants on a game show, answering trivia questions for cash prizes.

"Cash Cab" originated in Britain in 2005 and has since been licensed to television networks in more than two dozen countries. The Canadian version, hosted by comedian Adam Growe, a licensed taxi driver, has been broadcast by Discovery Channel Canada since 2008.

The U.S. version, now filmed in New York and Chicago, has been broadcast on the Discovery Channel since 2005.

Stage falls at Ottawa Bluesfest; 2 hospitalized

OTTAWA (AP)—The main stage at Ottawa Bluesfest collapsed Sunday night during a Cheap Trick concert as a severe thunderstorm sent the band members and thousands of fans running for cover.

At least two people were hospitalized, the Canadian Press news agency said.

The Globe and Mail newspaper of Toronto reported that a 46-year-old man was in serious condition, suffering a pierced abdomen, a fractured pelvis and a fractured leg after he was gored by a piece of the collapsing stage.

Paramedics treated four people, all men in their 40s, The Globe and Mail said.

The members of Cheap Trick were performing at the time, but they got off the stage safely. Witnesses said the band members were thrown off their feet.

"Everyone is okay and we are so lucky to be alive and hope that all the fans are okay too," the band, best known for hits including "Surrender", "I Want You to Want Me" and "The Flame", said in a message posted on Facebook.

Video of the Bluesfest site posted on YouTube within minutes of the storm's passing showed a stage that had crumpled and collapsed over electronic equipment. Twisted shards of metal jutted out from the stage, which stood several stories tall before it was destroyed.

Bluesfest is one of North America's main musical events. The festival first took place in 1994 and has since grown from a one-stage, three-day event to a multi-staged, 12-day music showcase featuring some of the best international talent.

Ivanka Trump gives birth to daughter in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—She's been a model, a jewelry designer and a judge on her father's TV show "The Apprentice." Now add mother to the list of Ivanka Trump's job titles.

Trump announced the birth of her first child Sunday in New York City via Twitter.

She says she and husband Jared Kushner "welcomed a beautiful and healthy little girl into the world." No name was announced. Kushner is the owner of the New York Observer newspaper. He and Trump wed in 2009. She converted to Judaism before the wedding.

The baby is the third grandchild for real estate mogul Donald Trump. Ivanka Trump's brother Donald Trump Jr. and his wife, Vanessa, have a daughter and a son.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I recently found out that Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz were dating, and now I hear they've married! Is that true?—Hannah D., Detroit

A: That sound you just heard was the collective sigh of millions of women worldwide who wouldn't have minded becoming Mrs. James Bond themselves one day. It is true: Daniel and Rachel married in a super-secret ceremony (befitting a superspy and his lady love) in New York on June 22. A source close to the couple told "News of the World": "They are madly in love, and couldn't wait to be husband and wife—but they wanted minimum fuss. They had a couple of friends as witnesses and their children from previous relationships, and that was it."

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I can't wait for Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" to hit the theaters, especially after seeing some first-look pictures in "Entertainment Weekly." Can you tell me which actors from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy will be back for "The Hobbit"?—Patrick L., Akron, Ohio

A: So far, Elijah Wood, Cate Blanchett, Orlando Bloom, Ian McKellan, Christopher Lee, Andy Serkis, Ian Holm and Hugo Weaving are set to return to Middle Earth. Liv Tyler, who played Arwen in the trilogy, is keen to make a cameo in the latest films, however, as of this writing, there are no plans to resurrect her character.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Are there are plans to bring Stephenie Meyers' sci-fi novel "The Host" to the big screen?—Selena F., via e-mail

A: Open Road films announced that the big-screen adaptation of Stephenie's apocalyptic book will be released March 29, 2013. The movie stars Saoirse Ronan ("The Lovely Bones" and "Atonement") as Melanie Stryder, and it is scheduled to begin shooting this February in Louisiana and New Mexico.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Who is going to be the new boss on "The Office"?—Janie P., via e-mail

A: As of this writing, reports say James Spader is in negotiations to pick up where Steve Carell left off. This got me to thinking: Who would be a perfect foil to play James' wife? None other than Beth Littleford. I asked Beth what she thought of the idea, and she is on board, stating: "I'd love to play his wife. I've had a thing for James Spader for 25-plus years. Blame 'Tuff Turf' (and also Steff, the sexy, arrogant yuppie from "Pretty in Pink"). Then again, I'd happily play Dwight Schrute's wife, Stanley Hudson's wife or Phyllis Vance's life partner."

AP

English actor Daniel Craig poses for photographers during a media event to promote his new movie "The Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn" in Cancun, Mexico Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I keep reading about there being a remake of "Red Dawn" in the works (with no release date in sight), and I wondered how stars of the original 1984 version felt about this? I have my doubts they'll be able to pull it off—the original is such a cult classic.—Brandi R., Erie, Pa.

A: I spoke with Lea Thompson, who played Erica in the original movie, and she also is a little iffy about the remake.

"I have my doubts, clearly," she said, "because they haven't released it yet although it's supposedly been done for ages. I'll be really interested to see it. One of the really amazing things about the original 'Red Dawn' is that there were no special effects in terms of computer-generated effects. Everything that happened really happened, which makes it more of a visceral nightmare. Sometimes some things left to the imagination are actually more haunting."

You can catch Lea starting July 30 in Hallmark Movie Channel's "The Cabin," where she plays a single mom who brings her kids to Scotland for fun and games, and for her, a little unexpected romance. She also stars in ABC Family's "Switched at Birth," and is featured in December's Oscar contender "J. Edgar," which stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Josh Lucas, Judi Dench and Naomi Watts.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

Southerners rise in force to defend their 'y'alls'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Keeping It Real in Laguna Beach, Calif." (May 27), who is embarrassed by the dialects of his Southern relatives, should learn some Southern hospitality! Yes, we may say "Ma and Pa," "y'all," "yonder" and "I reckon," but we would not laugh or be embarrassed if a California relative came to visit. We'd be overjoyed and welcoming.

"K.I.R.," get off your high horse and get over yourself! If you visited, we'd show you around town, take you to see friends and relatives, and smother you with affection. We'd have big family gatherings, sit on the front porch and drink lemonade. We would never ridicule your different accent.

Come spend some time with us "hicks." We welcome everyone and are glad to have you. We'll serve you white gravy and homemade buttermilk biscuits, pecan pie and sweet tea. And when you leave, we'll give you a big, air-constricting hug and some "sugar" (Southern slang for kisses) and say, "Y'all come back now, ya hear?"

GEORGIA GIRL

DEAR GEORGIA GIRL: To heck with "K.I.R."—invite me! You'll be pleased to know your fellow Southerners came out in force against "K.I.R.'s" uppity attitude. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Keeping It Real" is living in a fantasy world—a sad one at that. Our country is made up of all kinds of people. How can he not see the charm in a simple, down-home accent? Using different regional phrases or expressions doesn't make a person stupid or uneducated—a fact "K.I.R." might understand if he were more educated himself.

I adore my Southern heritage. I love being able to tell the difference between the drawl of someone from the Carolinas versus the Cajun tones of folks from Louisiana. There's richness to those voices. You can almost hear the history by listening to someone speak. I'd much rather hear about "Ma and Pa" than be repeatedly subjected to words like "dude" or "gnarly." All I can say to "K.I.R." is—bless your heart!

PROUD BELLE IN ARKANSAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why would "K.I.R." assume that because his Southern family doesn't live in an "uneducated" area, their accents are "fake"? His generalizations show how little he knows about the rich and varied Southern culture. He should read Tennessee Williams, Eudora Welty or Truman Capote, or watch a documentary about the South. In other words, educate HIMSELF to keep from coming off as embarrassingly shallow in front of his relatives.

SOUTHERN YANKEE IN TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The late Lewis Grizzard, an accomplished writer and comedian from Georgia, talked about the differences between Northerners and Southerners in his comedy show. My favorite line about our twang was, "GOD talks like we do."

KARLYLE IN KENTUCKY

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had lunch with the CEO of a major corporation. He is Harvard-educated with a doctorate from Berkeley. When he ordered "smashed taters with gravy" no one thought HE was a hick.

SMILING IN SEATTLE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm appalled by "K.I.R.'s" pretentious attitude. Anyone spending this much time worrying about the use of "Ma and Pa" clearly has too much time on his hands. He should spend it more constructively, examining why he's so concerned with appearances.

DAWN IN CONNECTICUT

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm guessing the country folk are having fun with him. I have a master's degree in English and can quote Milton and Yeats. But around snobs like this, I'd go all "Jed Clampett" so fast he'd think he's been slogwalloped by a she-critter without no young-uns.

BRIAN IN NORTH CAROLINA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: That fool can kiss my grits!

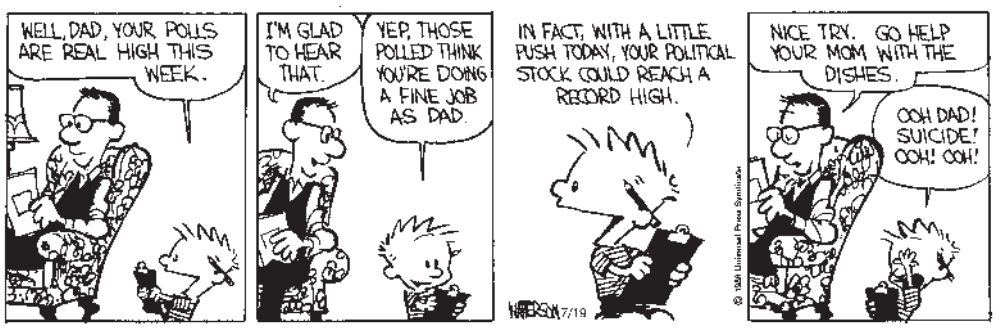
KAYE IN VIRGINIA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

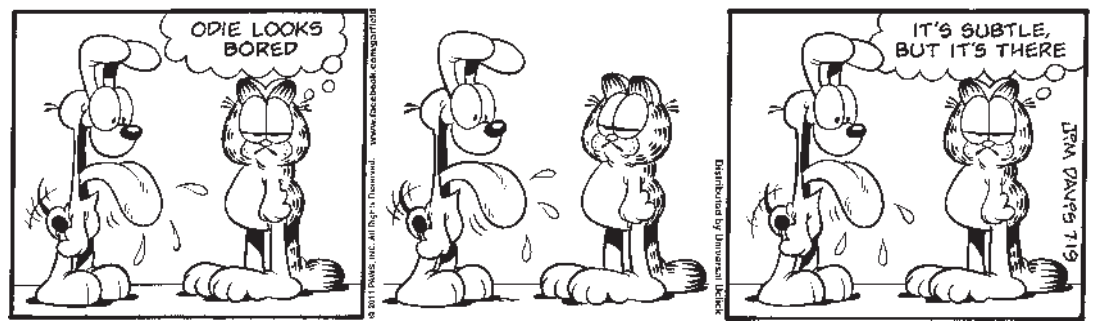
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, DAD, YOUR POLLS ARE REAL HIGH THIS WEEK.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
YEP, THOSE POLLED THINK YOU'RE DOING A FINE JOB AS DAD.
IN FACT, WITH A LITTLE PUSH TODAY, YOUR POLITICAL STOCK COULD REACH A RECORD HIGH.
NICE TRY. GO HELP YOUR MOM WITH THE DISHES.
OOH DAD! SUICIDE! OOH! OOH!
WATTERSON 7/19

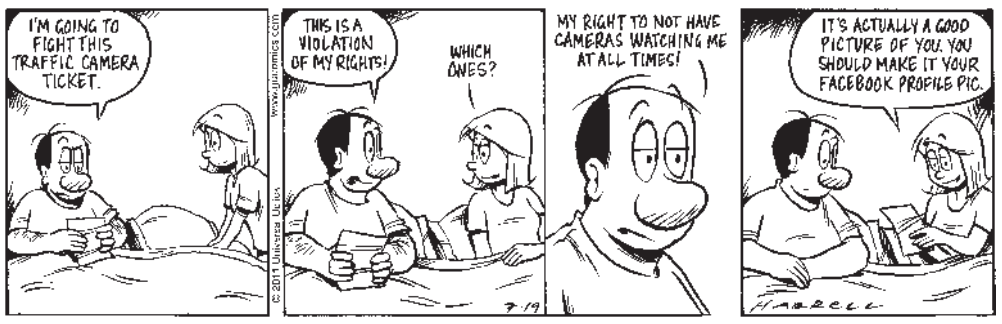
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



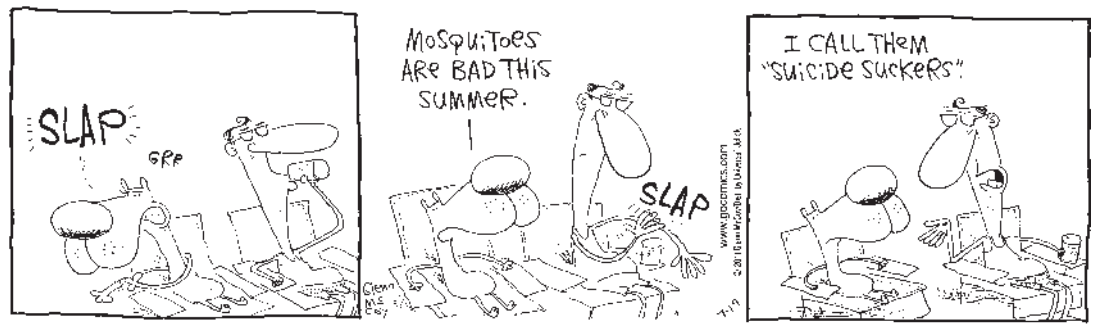
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M GOING TO FIGHT THIS TRAFFIC CAMERA TICKET.
THIS IS A VIOLATION OF MY RIGHTS!
WHICH ONES?
MY RIGHT TO NOT HAVE CAMERAS WATCHING ME AT ALL TIMES!
IT'S ACTUALLY A GOOD PICTURE OF YOU. YOU SHOULD MAKE IT YOUR FACEBOOK PROFILE PIC.
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

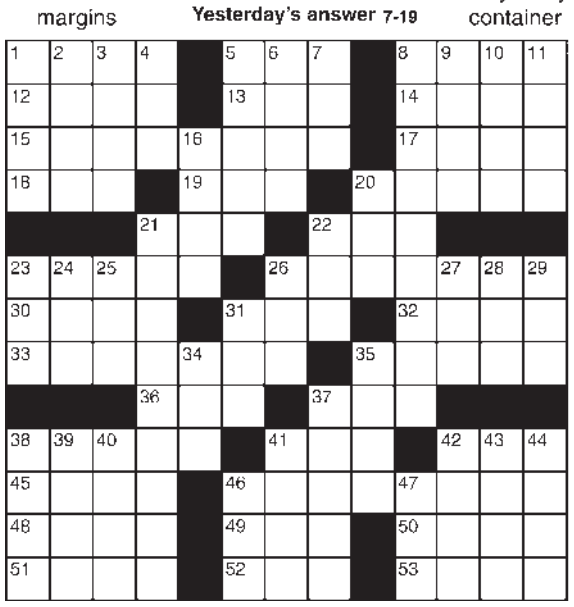
ACROSS
1 Completely occupy
5 Bashful
8 Taxis
12 Vicinity
13 Started
14 Fairy tale baddie
15 Hides
17 Tide type
18 Halves of ems
19 Tear
20 No liability
21 Prisoner
22 Insecticide letters
23 Choir members
26 Interpret wrongly
30 Bridle strap
31 Peace (Lat.)
32 Very unattractive
33 The Alamo, e.g.
35 Range
36 Explosive letters
37 Write in the margins
38 Hybrid eating utensil
41 Triumphed
42 Luau bowlful
45 Arizona tribe
46 Solidifies
48 Oil cartel
49 In vitro cells
50 Billion (Pref.)
51 Fender bender
52 Affirmative
53 Black and white?

DOWN
1 Confront
2 Press
3 Camera part
4 Fond du —, Wis.
5 Dispatched
6 Aid
7 Football meas.
8 Build
9 A very long time
10 Highland hillside
11 Labor Day mo.
16 Love god
20 Billboards
21 Squeeze
22 New Jersey fort
23 Upper limb
24 Floral garland
25 "— the season ..."
26 Fellow
27 Id counterpart
28 Swiss mountain
29 Coloring agent
31 Cauldron
34 Tattooist's supply
35 Melody
37 Surname of singing siblings Joe, Nick and Kevin
38 Not barefoot
39 Vatican VIP
40 Remove the lid
41 Used a loom
42 Twosome
43 Gymnast Korbut
44 "— a Little Prayer"
46 Demure
47 Silly Putty container

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	D	A			S	K	I		C	A	L	F
T	A	L	C		H	I	D		A	G	A	R
E	L	B	A		E	L	L		N	O	S	Y
M	E	A	N	Y		L	E	A	D			
			D	A	Y		S	L	I	P	O	N
H	O	R	I	Z	O	N		P	E	E	V	E
E	C	A	D		M	I	T		D	A	I	S
A	L	I	C	E		L	I	Z	A	R	D	S
P	E	D	A	N	T		M	O	P			
			M	E	R	E		O	P	R	A	H
O	G	R	E		U	S	E		L	O	S	E
F	O	U	R		M	A	R		E	W	E	R
T	O	G	A		P	U	G			S	A	D

Yesterday's answer 7-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jared Padalecki, 29; Anthony Edwards, 49; Campbell Scott, 50; Lisa Lampanelli, 50.

Happy Birthday: Put what you have learned to good use. Your ambition must be kept in the background while you work diligently to put your plans into play. Once you have a secure hold on what you are trying to achieve, you can step into the spotlight and share your accomplishment. Love and romance are highlighted this year and can lead to a better relationship with your current partner or someone new if you are single. Your numbers are 5, 14, 22, 26, 31, 36, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Unpredictable behavior will lead to controversy and an obvious emotional response. Let anyone who will be affected by your choices know in advance what you are going to do. Secondhand information will not turn out to be accurate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can throw your weight around and get results. You will learn plenty from an individual who has experience in an area you are lacking. Good fortune will come if you conduct your business cordially. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone will question you if you exaggerate. Stick to what you know and stand behind your promises. Home improvements can change your emotional well-being. A new acquaintance will make an unexpected offer. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): React from the heart and you will find out exactly what you need to know to make the right decision regarding your personal life. Don't wait until you are forced to make a move. An innovative approach to making money will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can make wise money moves if you invest in something innovative. A job that interests you may not turn out to be as good as it sounds. Love and romance will bring you good fortune. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be pulled in different directions personally and emotionally. Try your best not to get angry. Make special plans late in the day with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't slow down when you should be moving full speed ahead. A change that is happening at work may upset you. Don?t react too quickly; you don?t have all the facts. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Communications regarding money can help you sort out what you need to do in the future. Don't overspend on something you don?t really need. Sharing your thoughts and plans with someone you've known a long time will help you put things in perspective. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don?t give in to treats or bribery. You have to make it clear what you can and cannot contribute. Problems with friends, relatives or neighbors can be expected. Taking care of your health will be important and can change the outcome of a pending problem. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let your emotions cause you to do or say something foolish at work. You don't want to upset anyone who can influence your position. Good fortune regarding real estate and investments is evident. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have the strength, courage and discipline to make a commitment and to change your life. An honest assessment will help you realize what you want to do next and how you can go about making it happen. Don't try to do everything at once. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take a break, go on a vacation or just spend more time with the people you love most. An opportunity to get involved in an interest or goal you used to have will catch your interest. Offer your services and get started. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, kind, spiritual, innovative and ambitious. You are a humanitarian and try hard to be pleasant and positive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1	4		6		
		4			3	1	9	8
				6				5
		7			6	4	8	
				3				
	1	9	5			3		
3				7				
8	6	2	9			7		
		5		1	2			

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	1	8	4	5	2	7	3
3	2	7	9	6	1	8	4	5
4	8	5	7	3	2	6	9	1
7	1	4	5	2	8	3	6	9
9	5	2	3	1	6	4	8	7
8	6	3	4	9	7	5	1	2
2	7	6	1	8	3	9	5	4
5	3	9	6	7	4	1	2	8
1	4	8	2	5	9	7	3	6

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAREWELL TO THE OPRAH SHOW (1986-2011) Solution: 7 letters

L	O	O	H	C	S	V	E	R	N	I	T	A	L	A
A	B	R	E	W	S	T	E	R	B	E	R	I	F	U
I	N	T	E	R	V	I	E	W	S	O	F	R	E	D
S	L	G	T	S	O	H	M	I	D	E	I	L	N	I
Y	T	Ⓜ	Ⓔ	Ⓓ	Ⓘ	Ⓐ	O	U	D	C	L	A	I	E
B	E	S	V	L	Y	M	E	E	A	I	M	I	Z	N
U	N	T	E	A	V	L	O	N	V	O	S	F	A	C
M	N	O	O	U	P	I	A	R	A	I	S	O	G	E
B	E	H	N	R	G	M	E	N	P	D	C	S	A	R
L	S	O	U	R	E	T	C	W	D	A	I	T	M	A
E	S	P	D	R	E	H	C	A	E	R	P	E	H	T
D	E	E	I	E	O	V	O	O	S	R	O	D	A	I
E	E	C	R	R	E	A	D	M	L	W	T	M	R	N
N	A	T	I	V	E	S	O	N	E	O	E	A	P	G
N	S	E	L	F	T	I	T	L	E	D	R	N	O	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Individuals

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0142
-v-	:	
ALBERT I. REMOKET and CONSOLACION I. REMOKET, Defendants.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 14th day of July, 2011:

/s/Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

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Attorney for Administratrix Berlinda Flawau-Quitano

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	**Civil Action No. 11-0087**
JOSE TAIMANAO KING, (Rota Resident) Decedent.	**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to any and all creditors or entities having claims against the late Jose Taimano King, or his estate that they are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court, CNMI, within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be forever barred if not filed within the 60-day deadline. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the estate's administratrix Berlinda Flawau-Quitano, through her counsel, **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, at Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

Dated this 7th day of July 2011.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Red-hot Texas Rangers win 11th straight

SEATTLE (AP)— Matt Harrison wasn't about to be the one to halt Texas' wave of nearly perfect pitching, or the Rangers near-record win streak.

Harrison allowed just one run in 7 2-3 innings, Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer and the Rangers won their 11th straight with a 3-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday.

The Rangers' win streak is the longest in baseball since Philadelphia's 11-game streak last September and tied for second-best in team history, trailing only a 14-game streak during the 1991 season.

"This whole streak we're on right now is really because of what they have done. They've been great," Moreland said of the Rangers' staff. "When you are pitching like that it's fun to go out and play behind those guys and be a part of it."

In the process of running the streak to 11, Harrison (8-7) and the Rangers swept the slumping Mariners and likely ended any thought of Seattle being contenders in the AL West this season. The Mariners have lost nine straight and are now 11 1/2 games back.

It's also the Rangers' first four-game sweep of Seattle since 1992. Even the All-Star break thrown into the middle of the win streak couldn't slow down Texas.

"We were playing well and we expected ourselves to come out and play well," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "The first day of workouts (post break) showed they were ready."

While Moreland provided the punch, it was the Rangers' pitching staff that continued to be the story. Texas held Seattle to two runs in 36 innings in the four-game set. Going back to before the All-Star break, Texas pitching has allowed just two runs in its last 47 innings.

But it's more than just a five-game sample. During this 11-game streak, the Rangers' collective ERA is 2.09 and the opposing batting average is .194.

"I think warming up in the bullpen I figure out what is working that day and run with that. Kind of like today I felt good with my sinker in the bullpen today so I went out and threw a lot of those, even if I got behind in the count," Harrison said. "If it was 2-0, 3-1, I was able to throw that pitch any time I wanted to and keep it down in the zone and make them put it in play."

Harrison allowed a leadoff walk to Ichiro Suzuki to start the game then proceeded to silence Seattle's struggling bats. Thanks to a double play after Suzuki's walk, Harrison faced the minimum into the fifth inning before consecutive singles by Justin Smoak and Greg Halman.

Seattle didn't score there, but finally got to Harrison in the eighth after Bard doubled off the wall in left and scored on Jack Wilson's single to center. But Suzuki finished off a 0-for-3 day with a strikeout and that was it for Harrison. Reliever Mark Lowe entered and got Franklin Gutierrez to close the eighth.

Neftali Feliz struck out a pair in the ninth for his 20th save in 24 chances and continued his domination of the Mariners, who are hitless as a team in 33 plate appearances against Feliz.

Seattle rookie Blake Beavan (1-1) minimized the damage all day—except for Moreland's 12th homer in the second inning—and suffered his first career loss.

AP

Texas Rangers' Adrian Beltre slides into second after Seattle Mariners second baseman Dustin Ackley tries to recover from a fielding error in the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 17, 2011, in Seattle.

Washington said before Sunday's game that he was dropping Moreland to ninth in the batting order, hoping he'd relax a bit at the plate. Moreland had gone 10 games without driving in a run and was hitless in his previous 14 at-bats before stepping up in the second.

David Murphy started the inning with a single and Mike Napoli walked after a nine-pitch at-bat. Moreland then drove a 2-1 pitch from Beavan out to deep right-center field.

Beavan otherwise kept Seattle close into the seventh inning. The former Rangers prospect was acquired in the trade that sent Cliff Lee to Texas last July and was facing his former club for the first time. Beavan escaped a two-out bases loaded jam in the first inning and retired 11 of the final 13 batters he faced. He allowed six hits, struck out three and walked two.

"I just tried to focus on hitting the mitt. Those guys, the thing they do best is hit mistakes, hit balls over the plate," Beavan said. "I just tried to calm down and make a quality pitch and get a groundball."

Twins 4, Royals 3

At Minneapolis, Jim Thome hit his 596th career home run and Joe Nathan picked up the save for the second day in a row, lifting Minnesota to the win.

Thome's tiebreaking three-run drive off Felipe Paulino soared into the upper deck in right-center field in the sixth inning, leaving him four shy of becoming the eighth player to hit 600 home runs.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3

At Detroit, Carlos Guillen hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Detroit's three-run sixth inning, leading the Tigers to the victory.

The Tigers came back from a 3-0 deficit and avoided a three-game sweep. Chicago led 3-1 when Victor Martinez tied it with a two-run single in the sixth. Jhonny Peralta then singled, and Guillen followed with a line drive to right field that drove in Martinez.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Phil Hughes pitched six effective innings to earn his first win of the season as the Yankees salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Brett Gardner had three hits and Curtis Granderson finished with three RBIs for the Yankees, who were outscored 23-8 over the first two games in the set.

Athletics 9, Angels 1

At Oakland, Conor Jackson hit his first career grand slam to highlight Oakland's eight-run first inning.

Hideki Matsui added a two-run single as the A's sent 14 batters to the plate and chased Joel Pineiro (5-4) after just one-third of an inning. Seven of the runs came before an out was recorded, a first for Oakland in its history at the Coliseum.

Orioles 8, Indians 3

At Baltimore, Robert Andino homered and had a career-high four RBIs, and Baltimore secured its first winning streak in nearly a month.

Adam Jones, Nick Markakis, and Matt Wieters hit solo shots for the Orioles, who scored the final eight runs after falling behind 3-0 in the first inning. Baltimore had not put together successive victories since June 19-20 before winning twice to earn a split of the series.

Reds 3, Cardinas 1

At Cincinnati, Zack Cozart hit his first major league homer on Sunday, and the Cincinnati Reds used a disputed call and a pair of wild pitches by Jaime Garcia to rally for a 3-1 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

The defending NL Central champs got a much-needed win against Garcia (9-4), who was 5-0 in his career against them.

Phillies 8, Mets 5

At New York, Michael Martinez hit a three-run shot for his first major league homer to back a steady outing by Kyle Kendrick and lead Philadelphia past New York for its seventh straight series win.

Kendrick (5-4) singled twice and scored on Martinez's drive in the fifth inning off Mike Pelfrey (5-9). Martinez, a Rule 5 pick from Washington, added a sacrifice fly in the seventh for a career-high four RBIs.

Ryan Howard hit a run-scoring single in the first and Philadelphia took two of three from the NL East rival Mets for the fourth time this season. Jimmy Rollins had a two-run single in a three-run eighth aided by Jason Bay's error in left field and reliever Pedro Beato's three walks.

Giants 4, Padres 3, 11 innings

At San Diego, Chris Stewart drove in the go-ahead run with a suicide squeeze in the 11th inning, then pounced on a bunt moments later to start a slick double play that helped San Francisco hold off San Diego.

Emmanuel Burriss, who entered as a pinch-runner in the ninth, reached on a one-out single off Chad Qualls in the 11th. Burriss stole second and continued to third on catcher Kyle Phillips' throwing error.

Braves 9, Nationals 8

At Atlanta, Freddie Freeman singled home the winning run in the ninth inning following an intentional walk, giving Atlanta a victory over Washington.

Ryan Mattheus (2-1) walked pinch-hitter Brooks Conrad to start the bottom of the ninth. With two outs, Martin Prado stole second and the Nationals issued an intentional walk to Brian McCann, who hit a three-run homer in the fifth.

Freeman lined a 1-0 pitch into right field and was soon in the middle of a celebration between first and second base after Prado scored easily.

Brewers 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Shaun Marcum tossed five solid innings before leaving with a strained neck and Milwaukee held off Colorado to win consecutive road games for the first time in six weeks.

Rickie Weeks, Casey McGehee and Nyjer Morgan had two hits each for Milwaukee. The Brewers last won back-to-back road games when they swept a four-game series in Florida from June 3-6.

Jason Giambi homered and Seth Smith also had two hits for Colorado.

John Axford got his 25th save after his second straight nail-biting ninth inning. With two on, he struck out All-Star slugger Troy Tulowitzki on three pitches to end it.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 1

At Phoenix, Daniel Hudson threw a five-hitter, belted his first big league home run and finished with three RBIs, almost single-handedly leading Arizona past Los Angeles.

Hudson (10-5) struck out three and walked none in his second complete game of the season. The right-hander also earned his first win since he beat Kansas City on June 23 and improved to 9-1 in 16 starts after beginning the season 0-4.

Hudson connected against Ted Lilly (6-10) in the sixth, then hit a two-run single in the seventh to make it 4-1.

Pirates 7, Astros 5, 11 innings

At Houston, inch-runner Josh Harrison scored on a passed ball for the first of Pittsburgh's three runs in the 11th and rookie Alex Presley drove in his third run of the game later in the inning to lead the Pirates over mistake-prone Houston.

Brandon Wood doubled to start the 11th and was replaced by Harrison. Xavier Paul reached on an error when Astros closer Mark Melancon (5-3) couldn't handle his dribbler that sent Harrison to third.

Harrison scored on a passed ball by catcher Humberto Quintero to make it 5-4. Presley followed with an RBI single and scored on an error by reliever Aneury Rodriguez.

Marlins 7, Cubs 5

At Chicago, Greg Dobbs hit a two-run homer and drove in the go-ahead run with a bases-loaded walk in the eighth inning, leading Florida past Chicago.

After Dobbs' four-pitch walk against Kerry Wood (1-5), Logan Morrison capped the Marlins' three-run rally with a two-run single that made it 7-4.

Aramis Ramirez hit a two-out RBI double in the bottom half but Randy Choate came in and got Carlos Pena to bounce out to end the inning. Leo Nunez worked the ninth for his 26th save.

Judge expected in NY for NFL talks

NEW YORK (AP)—Talks to end the NFL lockout will resume with the court-appointed mediator in New York on Monday and could continue through Thursday, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on Sunday on condition of anonymity, because the discussions are supposed to remain confidential.

The mediator, U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, originally had ordered representatives of the league's owners and players to meet with him Tuesday in Minneapolis. Now Boylan is expected to arrive in New York on Monday to oversee talks aimed at ending the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987.

The owners have a special meeting set for Thursday in Atlanta, where they potentially could ratify a new deal - if one is reached by then. Any agreement also must be voted on by groups of players, including the named plaintiffs in a federal antitrust suit against the league, and the NFL Players Association's 32 team representatives.

More than four months into the lockout, owners and players have made significant progress on the framework of an agreement. But re-establishing the union and figuring out what it will take for nine NFL players - including star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees - to settle that antitrust suit are among key issues blocking a deal to end the lockout, people familiar with the negotiations told the AP on condition of anonymity.

The unresolved matters also include how the TV networks case, in which the players accused the owners of setting up "lockout insurance," will be settled.

Among the parts mostly squared away following significant progress last week:

- how the more than $9 billion in annual league revenues will be divided;
- a rookie salary system;
- free agency rules;
- a cap of about $120 million for player salaries in 2011, with about another $20 million in benefits.

The lockout began March 12, when negotiations broke down and the old collective bargaining agreement expired. The NFLPA announced it was dissolving itself and would no longer be a union that could bargain for all players under labor law, instead saying it was now a trade association. That allowed players to take their chances against the NFL in federal court under antitrust law.

There is a possibility that the sides will be able to put together a tentative agreement in principle in time to keep the preseason completely intact. The exhibition opener is scheduled to be the Hall of Fame game between the St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears on Aug. 7, and as of Sunday, no preseason games had been canceled.

Howard considering China, Europe

FAIRBURN, Ga. (AP)—Dwight Howard's frustration with the NBA lockout has caused the Orlando Magic star to strongly consider playing overseas.

In an exclusive interview Sunday with The Associated Press, Howard said he would consider playing in China or Europe if the NBA lockout doesn't end.

Howard, a five-time All-Star who led Orlando to the NBA finals in 2009, stopped short of saying he's in contract discussions with teams overseas.

"I'm not at liberty to talk about it," he said, "but there's a huge possibility about me going to China or me going overseas to play basketball."

New Jersey guard Deron Williams said recently after signing with a team in Turkey that Howard could become a worldwide star if he played in China.

Howard, who hosted a celebrity basketball game Sunday at Langston Hughes High School to raise money for his charity, didn't disagree.

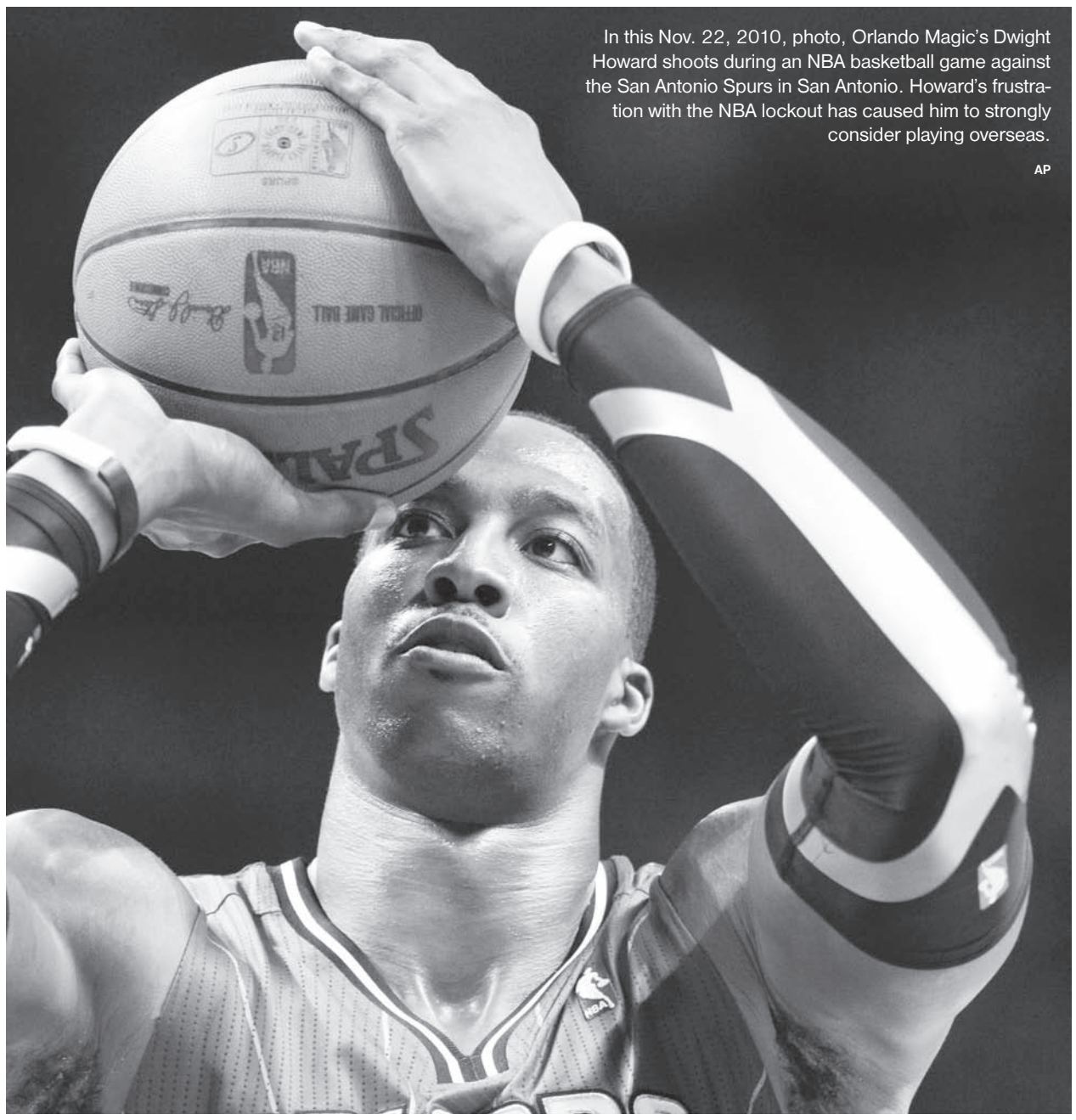
"The big thing for me is not giving too much information away, but at the same time I still need to let people know what's going on with me," Howard said. "I don't want to just sit over here and forget about basketball and waste, you know, opportunities for me to get better."

Howard wasn't interested in discussing his potential free agency at the end of next season. Along with Williams and New Orleans guard Chris Paul, Howard is a marquee name for potential free agency in 2012.

He saw no point in discussing the 2012-13 season when there's no guarantee of an NBA season in 2011-12.

That's why an opportunity overseas could make sense soon.

"If I decide to go overseas, the main thing is for me to continue to get better, not to do the things that I normally do, but do better at the things I'm not good at," Howard said. "So I can use that talent to go overseas, working on my skills and staying in great shape."



In this Nov. 22, 2010, photo, Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard shoots during an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in San Antonio. Howard's frustration with the NBA lockout has caused him to strongly consider playing overseas.

AP

Howard recently hosted 400 kids at a youth basketball camp in Spain and was planning to host "a bunch of them in China, but the lockout messed everything up."

The former overall No. 1 NBA draft pick loves working with kids in his native Atlanta, but he's also longing to spread his appeal in other parts of the world.

"Being a role model lasts longer than being a basketball player," he said. "Right now I have an opportunity to do a lot of great things. I'm blessed with a lot of talents, but one of my talents is being great with kids. Being a good role model, you just want to lead them in the right direction."

Voeckler keeps Tour lead but doubts chances to win

MONTPELLIER, France (AP)—Thomas Voeckler stayed with the big Tour de France favorites in the mountains.

He's had the lead for six days. And no less a cycling connoisseur than Lance Armstrong thinks the Frenchman could be wearing the yellow jersey when the race ends July 24 in Paris.

The biggest doubter is Voeckler himself.

"I will fight, of course, but I musn't be dishonest," Voeckler said after Sunday's flat Stage 15, won by British sprint star Mark Cavendish. "I consider that I have zero percent chance of winning the Tour de France."

For many French fans, Voeckler has rekindled cautious optimism that cycling's greatest prize could return home for the first time since 1985, the last of Bernard Hinault's five victories.

Voeckler's retort: Don't expect me to do it.

"I don't want to lie to the public," he said. "Maybe it would make for good publicity, I don't know, but it doesn't interest me. ... I'm not going to announce to the French people that 'I'm in yellow, I have a chance to win.'"

Such humility has been virtually unheard of at cycling's premier event in recent years. Riders like Armstrong or three-time champion Alberto Contador of Spain unabashedly bared their ambition from the outset.

"It's not a question of wanting. Everybody would like to win the Tour," Voeckler said. "It's true that since Bernard Hinault, the French people want a winner. I really sense it well."

Voeckler leads Frank Schleck of Luxembourg by 1 minute, 49 seconds, and Cadel Evans of Australia is third, 2:06 back. Schleck's younger brother, Andy, is 2:15 behind in fourth and Ivan Basso of Italy is fifth - 3:16 behind off the pace. Contador is seventh, four minutes behind.

Voeckler doesn't expect to hold off probable attackers in two punishing days in the Alps on Thursday and Friday, each featuring uphill finishes. Then, on Saturday, there's a final individual time trial - a discipline in which he isn't among the best - in and around Grenoble. The race ends next Sunday.

For the most part, the running commentary this year has been that Contador, two-time runners-up Evans and Andy Schleck, plus Basso have yet to go at each other. Voeckler, in a way, has been cast as just a bump in their road.

But after three days in the Pyrenees, the main contenders are taking the Frenchman seriously.

"Voeckler is in incredible form," said Contador, who has increasingly used mind games since winning the Tour in 2007 and the last two years. "He has a big lead. It will be hard to make that up."

Evans calls the overall standings "a bit strange."

"I think people still look at the Schleck brothers as favorites, but they're two minutes down. ... So it's still about Voeckler for now."

Armstrong knows the French rider well: He wrested the yellow jersey from Voeckler after his 10-day run in it in the 2004 Tour. Armstrong tweeted that if Voeckler finished the stage with the favorites "then we have to say he can win the TdF." He did.

Then the seven-time Tour champion went further.

"Final TT is 42km. He's French. It's the Tour de FRANCE," Armstrong wrote, referring to the final time trial. "He won't lose 2:06 in the final time trial ASSUMING... He keeps them close on Alpe d'Huez."

Fellow French riders who've seen Voeckler up close more recently are cautious, with one floating the more reasonable chance that he could become the first top-three French finisher since Richard Virenque was second in 1997.

"I think he can limit the damage in the big Alpine stages, but the last time trial ..." said Cofidis team rider Samuel Dumoulin. "A place in the top five is possible or even, in the right circumstances, a place on the podium."

Voeckler and his squad want to just race and see how things turn out, possibly as a way to manage expectations and sidestep the question: Can he really win?

"I don't answer this question, and I don't ask it myself," said Jean-Rene Bernardeau, manager of Voeckler's Europcar squad. "Thomas will give everything he can in the next week."

On Sunday, Voeckler and the contenders cruised across after Cavendish in the mostly flat, 120-mile route through vineyards from Limoux to Montpellier that favored sprinters

The British rider overcame high winds and "bashing" among riders in the pack for his fourth stage victory this year and the 19th of his career. He nosed ahead of American Tyler Farrar in second, and Alessandro Petacchi of Italy in third.

Cavendish is now three career stage wins behind Armstrong, who is fifth with 22. Belgium's Eddy Merckx holds the record with 34.

JAPAN

From Page 28

All tournament long the teammates poignantly reminded the world they were playing for their battered country, still reeling from the devastation of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Did they ever.

They held the gleaming trophy high above their smiling faces as confetti swirled around the podium, flecking their hair with gold.

"Before we went to the match tonight we had some commentary on television and we heard comments on the situation in Japan," coach Norio Sasaki said. "We wanted to use this opportunity to thank the people back home for the support that has been given."

This was Japan's first appearance in the final of a major tournament, and they had not beaten the Americans in their first 25 meetings, including a pair of 2-0 losses in warm-up games a month before the World Cup. But the Nadeshiko pushed ahead, playing inspired soccer and hoping their success could provide even a small emotional lift to their nation, where nearly 23,000 people died or were reported missing.

After each game, the team unfurled a banner saying, "To our Friends Around the World—Thank You for Your Support." On Sunday, they did it before the match and afterward they had a new sign to display: Champion—the first Asian country to win this title.

The Americans found it all too hard to grasp. They believed they were meant to be World Cup champions after their rocky year - needing a playoff to qualify, a loss in group play to Sweden, the epic comeback against Brazil. They simply couldn't pull off one last thriller.

"The players were patient. They wanted to win this game," Sasaki said. "I think it's because of that the Americans scored only two goals."

While the Japanese celebrated at midfield, the Americans stood as a group and watched.

"There are really no words," Abby Wambach said. "We were so close."

Minutes, actually.

After Wambach scored in the 104th minute of overtime to give the Americans a 2-1 lead, Homare Sawa flicked in a corner kick in the 117th to tie it. It was the fifth goal of the tournament for Sawa, who was playing in her fifth World Cup.

"We ran and ran," Sawa said. "We were exhausted, but we kept running."

The Americans had beaten Brazil on penalty kicks in a quarterfinal, but they didn't have the same touch Sunday. Give Kaihori credit for some of that. Shannon Boxx took the first U.S. shot, and it banged off Kaihori's right leg as she dove. After Aya Miyama made her penalty, Carli Lloyd stepped up and sent her shot soaring over the crossbar. As the crowd gasped, Lloyd covered her mouth in dismay.

Solo saved Japan's next shot, but Kaihori made an impressive two-handed save on a shot by Tobin Heath.

"This is a team effort," Kaihori said. "In the penalty shootout I just had to believe in myself and I was very confident."

Solo came up with a save, and Wambach buried her penalty kick.

But Japan need to make just one more, and Saki Kumagai did.

"It's tough to do two rounds of penalties," Wambach said. "The keeper knows in a lot of ways where we're going to go. She made some great saves."

It's been 12 years since the United States has won the World Cup, and this team was certain they were the ones to break the drought. They'd needed to beat Italy in a two-game playoff just to get into the World Cup, then lost two games in a three-month span, an unusual "bad streak" for the defending Olympic champions.

After easy wins in their first two games in Germany, the Americans lost to Sweden—their first loss ever in World Cup group play.

But they rallied with one of the most riveting finishes ever in a World Cup game—men's or women's—against Brazil in the quarterfinals. Down a player for almost an hour and on the verge of making their earliest exit ever from a major tournament, Wambach's magnificent, leaping header in the 122nd minute tied the game.

The Americans beat Brazil on penalty kicks and, just like that, a nation was hooked.

Hollywood celebrities, pro athletes, even folks who don't know a bicycle kick from a Schwinn were captivated by the U.S. women and charmed by their grit and can-do attitude that is uniquely - proudly - American. Even President Barack Obama was a fan, taking to Twitter himself on Sunday morning to wish the team well.

"Sorry I can't be there to see you play, but I'll be cheering you on from here. Let's go. - BO."

But, of course, it was not to be.

"Considering the current situation in Japan, I can say that we still have some weak points," Sasaki said. "Nevertheless this has been an outstanding tournament for us."

The Americans finished the first half with a 12-5 shot advantage but had just one attempt on target. Lauren Cheney came up short three times, Wambach shook the crossbar and Megan Rapinoe banged one off the near post.

The Americans finally broke through in the second half, with Morgan scoring her second goal of the tournament in the 69th. Rapinoe booted a pass that traveled almost half the length of the field and Morgan, who replaced the injured Cheney at halftime, beat three defenders to catch up to it. She shook Kumagai, touched the ball once with her right foot, stutter-stepped and then delivered a left-footed blast from 17 yards that Kaihori had no chance at stopping.

The Americans raced over to Morgan for a group bearhug while chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" echoed through the stadium.

But with just nine minutes or so before they could claim the title, the Americans gifted Japan a goal. Rachel Buehler tied to clear the ball right in front of the goal and knocked it to Ali Krieger, who botched her clearance, too. The ball fell to Miyama, who poked it in from five yards to tie it.

"If any other country was to win this, then I'm really happy and proud for Japan," Lloyd said. "Deep down inside I really thought it was our destiny to win it. But maybe it was Japan's."

US

From Page 28

on penalty kicks in a quarterfinal thriller, but they didn't have the same touch Sunday.

"It's hard to do two rounds of penalties," Wambach said. "The keeper, in a way, knows which way we're going to go."

Though the U.S. is the two-time defending Olympic champion, it has been 12 years since that watershed team in 1999 won the World Cup. This squad was certain it could turn it around.

It was not a smooth ride. There was an upset in regional qualifying by Mexico, a team that had not beaten its neighbors to the north in its first 25 tries, forcing the two-time champs to beat Italy in a playoff to get the very last spot in Germany. They dropped their first game of the year, to Sweden, and lost to England for the first time in 22 years—so long ago Alex Morgan hadn't even been born yet.

They won their first two games in Germany easily - despite squandering dozens of chances. Then they lost to Sweden, their first defeat in group play at the World Cup.

But they rallied with one of the most riveting finishes ever in a World Cup game - men's or women's - against Brazil in the quarterfinals. Down a player for almost an hour and on the verge of making their earliest exit ever from a major tournament, Wambach's magnificent, leaping header in the 122nd minute tied the game.

They scratched out another gritty win against France to earn a spot in the finals.

And now this.

"It's devastating," Megan Rapinoe said. "Just to get to the final and not win it is devastating."

Even when they went to penalty kicks, the Americans still never doubted themselves.

"This is sports. This is the way it goes," Wambach said. "Unfortunately, it didn't go our way tonight. All of us are devastated."

But the Americans lost this game as much as Japan won it. Their struggles to finish, a problem all year, cost them big.

"I don't blame anybody," Wambach said. "We had so many chances tonight."

The Americans finished the first half with a 12-5 shot advantage but had just one attempt on target. Lauren Cheney came up short three times, Wambach shook the crossbar and Rapinoe banged one off the near post. The Americans finally broke through in the second half, with Morgan scoring her second goal of the tournament in the 69th.

But with just nine minutes or so before they could claim the title, the Americans gifted Japan a goal. Rachel Buehler tied to clear the ball right in front of the goal and knocked it to Ali Krieger, who botched her clearance, too. The ball fell to Aya Miyama, who poked it in from five yards to tie it.

CELEBRATE

From Page 28

windows of crowded establishments.

The women's team, long an afterthought to the men's squad in Japan, had increasingly received attention from the national media as it climbed through the tournament, making up for its lack of size with pinpoint passing and a swarming team defense.

Japan's players used the disasters as motivation throughout, watching pictures of the devastation from their homeland before some matches. The team displayed a banner reading "To our Friends Around the World—Thank You for Your Support" before the final.

After the victory, some chanting fans spilled into the Tokyo streets. In Shibuya, a neighborhood known for its youth pop culture, dozens of police kept a small group of boisterous fans from wandering out into traffic.

Special edition newspapers proclaiming the victory were printed by the national papers and handed out to pedestrians Monday morning, while scenes from the game were replayed constantly on television.

The women's side goes by the name "Nadeshiko," after a mountain flower thought to be a symbol of femininity in traditional Japanese culture. But some said the players defied traditional roles with their playing style.

"This shows that Japanese women are strong," said 32-year-old Rui Hayashi, who works at a men's club in Tokyo.

The victory came against a backdrop of concern about the crippled nuclear power plant run by Tokyo Electric Power Co., which has leaked radiation into the sea and surrounding areas.

CLARKE

From Page 28

fairways, Clarke held off brief challenges from Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson and held up under the pressure until no one could catch him.

Mickelson, who needed only seven holes to made up a five-shot deficit, stepped aside by missing too many short putts. Johnson, in the final group of a major for the third time in the last six, made another blunder with a major at stake. This time, he was two shots behind on the par-5 14th, tried to lay up with a 2-iron and hit it out-of-bounds to make double bogey.

They shared second place, stretching the American drought to six straight majors without winning.

Despite meaningless bogeys on the last two holes, Clarke closed with an even-par 70.

"Pretty amazing right now," Clarke said. "It's been a dream since I've been a kid to win the Open, like any kid's dream is, and I'm able to do it, which just feels incredible."

The weather was so wild that heavy rain switched over to sunshine, back and forth all afternoon, in a relentless wind. Clarke was steady through it all, never allowing himself to think about what it mean to hold the claret jug until he stepped onto the 18th green.

Clarke removed his visor to salute the gallery. His hair is almost all gray now, the result of a 42-year-old who has gone through more hard times than he cares to remember, the worst of it losing his wife to cancer five years ago.

"Bad times in golf are more frequent than the good times," he said. "I've always been pretty hard on myself when I fail because I don't find it very easy to accept that. And there's times I've been completely and utterly fed up with the game."

The advice from friends, family and agent Chubby Chandler were always the same.

"Get out there and practice and keep going, keep going, keep going," Clarke said. "And that's why I'm sitting here now."

With a one-shot lead over Johnson going into the final round, there was a sense that Clarke wouldn't be able to hold up. But he holed a 12-foot par putt on the first, a downhill 8-footer for par on the third. A 20-foot eagle putt on the seventh, not long after Mickelson made eagle to tie him, gave Clarke the lead for good.

Northern Ireland had gone 63 years—since Fred Daly in the 1947 British Open—without winning a major. Now it has three of the last six.

"Northern Ireland..... Golf capital of the world!!" McIlroy tweeted as Clarke played the last hole.

"We're blessed to have two fantastic players in Rory and GMac, and I've just come along, the only guy coming along behind them," Clarke said. "We have fantastic golf courses, we have fantastic facilities, but to have three major champions from a little, small place in a short period of time, it's just incredible."

They are so close that a week after McIlroy won the U.S. Open, Clarke pulled out of a tournament in Germany so he could return to Northern Ireland and join the celebration.

Maybe McIlroy, who shot a 73 and complained the weather didn't suit him at the British Open, can return the favor.

"He missed Munich for mine, so I don't think I'll miss a tournament for his, but I'll definitely be there," McIlroy said. "And I'll definitely be one of the last ones to go to bed."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	57	36	.613	–
New York	55	37	.598	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	50	43	.538	7
Toronto	47	49	.490	11 1/2
Baltimore	38	54	.413	18 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Cleveland	49	44	.527	–
Detroit	50	45	.526	–
Chicago	46	49	.484	4
Minnesota	44	49	.473	5
Kansas City	38	57	.400	12

WEST DIVISION

Texas	55	41	.573	–
Los Angeles	51	45	.531	4
Seattle	43	52	.453	11 1/2
Oakland	42	54	.438	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	59	35	.628	–
Atlanta	56	39	.589	3 1/2
New York	47	47	.500	12
Washington	47	48	.495	12 1/2
Florida	46	49	.484	13 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	51	45	.531	–
Pittsburgh	49	44	.527	1/2
St. Louis	50	45	.526	1/2
Cincinnati	47	48	.495	3 1/2
Chicago	38	58	.396	13
Houston	31	64	.326	19 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	55	41	.573	–
Arizona	51	44	.537	3 1/2
Colorado	45	50	.474	9 1/2
Los Angeles	42	53	.442	12 1/2
San Diego	41	55	.427	14

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 1
Boston 9, Tampa Bay 5
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 0
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 2st game
Baltimore 6, Cleveland 5
Minnesota 4, Kansas City 3
Oakland 4, L.A. Angels 3, 10 inningsnd game
Texas 5, Seattle 1
Philadelphia 8, N.Y. Mets 5
Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 1
Atlanta 9, Washington 8
Pittsburgh 7, Houston 5, 11 inningg
Florida 7, Chicago Cubs 5
Milwaukee 4, Colorado 3
San Francisco 4, San Diego 3, 11 innings
Arizona 4, L.A. Dodgers 1

BRITISH OPEN SCORES

SANDWICH, England (AP)–Final scores Sunday at the British Open, a $7.97 million tournament played at the par-70, 7,211-yard Royal St. George's Golf Club (a-amateur):

FINAL ROUND

Darren Clarke	68-68-69-70–275
Phil Mickelson	70-69-71-68–278
Dustin Johnson	70-68-68-72–278
Thomas Bjorn	65-72-71-71–279
Chad Campbell	69-68-74-69–280
Anthony Kim	72-68-70-70–280
Rickie Fowler	70-70-68-72–280
Raphael Jacquelin	74-67-71-69–281
Sergio Garcia	70-70-74-68–282
Simon Dyson	68-72-72-70–282
Davis Love III	70-68-72-72–282
Steve Stricker	69-71-72-71–283
Martin Kaymer	68-69-73-73–283
Lucas Glover	66-70-73-74–283
George Coetzee	69-69-72-74–284
Richard Green	70-71-73-71–285
Charl Schwartzel	71-67-75-72–285
Y.E. Yang	71-69-73-72–285
Fredrik Jacobson	70-70-73-72–285
Webb Simpson	66-74-72-73–285
Zach Johnson	72-68-71-74–285
Tom Watson	72-70-72-72–286
Tom Lehman	71-67-73-75–286
Anders Hansen	69-69-72-76–286
Rory McIlroy	71-69-74-73–287
Adam Scott	69-70-73-75–287
Miguel Angel Jimenez	66-71-72-78–287
Ryan Moore	69-74-76-69–288
Charles Howell III	71-70-73-74–288
Stewart Cink	70-71-77-71–289
Jason Day	71-70-76-72–289
Gary Woodland	75-68-74-72–289
Seung-Yul Noh	69-72-75-73–289
a-Tom Lewis	65-74-76-74–289
Bubba Watson	69-72-74-74–289
Pablo Larrazabal	68-70-76-75–289
Ryan Palmer	68-71-72-78–289
Simon Khan	71-72-77-70–290
Jeff Overton	68-71-78-73–290
Gary Boyd	71-70-76-73–290
Yuta Ikeda	69-71-75-75–290
Robert Rock	69-71-74-76–290
Trevor Immelman	70-72-72-76–290
Spencer Levin	72-69-81-69–291
Justin Rose	72-70-79-79–291
K.J. Choi	71-72-75-73–291
Kyle Stanley	68-72-77-74–291
Gregory Bourdy	73-70-77-72–292
Floris De Vries	70-73-76-73–292
Jim Furyk	72-70-76-74–292
a-Peter Uihlein	71-71-75-75–292
Robert Allenby	69-72-75-76–292
Richard McEvoy	69-72-75-76–292
Paul Casey	74-69-78-72–293
Rory Sabbatini	71-70-77-75–293
Louis Oosthuizen	72-70-74-77–293
Bill Haas	72-70-79-73–294
Gregory Havret	72-71-78-73–294
Ricky Barnes	68-74-78-74–294
Fredrik Andersson Hed	68-75-77-74–294
Stephen Gallacher	70-71-77-76–294
Bo Van Pelt	73-69-73-79–294
Matthew Millar	71-72-80-73–296
Joost Luiten	73-69-79-75–296
Mark Wilson	74-68-75-79–296
Paul Lawrie	73-70-81-73–297
Edoardo Molinari	69-74-76-78–297
Henrik Stenson	72-71-75-80–298
Harrison Frazar	72-70-77-80–299
Kenneth Ferrie	71-71-76-83–301
Jung-Gon Hwang	68-74-83-79–304

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIC Lazer Tag tourney rescheduled for Saturday

Pacific Islands Club has reset the 2nd Annual Lazer Tag Tournament this Saturday.

Registration will still take place at 5pm and games will begin at 5:45pm at PIC's southern parking lot. The event was originally scheduled last Saturday, but was called off due to rain.

Nine teams have already confirmed and event organizers are expecting to fill up the seven available slots come game day.

Entry gee is onlyt $10 per person and will be limited to the first 16 teams. Prizes are up for grabs to the winners, but are still being determined. All participants must wear running shoes. Entry forms and a list of the rules can be found at the PIC information desk or at the SEA office from 9am to 6pm.

Each team must have three players and will battle it out in head-to head elimination matches at PIC's Lazer Tag Park. Each player will be allotted a certain amount of "ammunition" and "lives" in each match. Matches duration will be limited to three to five minutes.

Games will start with "capture the flag" style pool play and conclude with double-elimination "slayer" battles.

Pacific Trading Company's Miller-Lite, Gatorade, and Pepsi are sponsoring the event.

For more information, contact Dennis Tababa at 237-5173 or email sportsmanager@pic-saipan.com. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Baseball fundraiser meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Major League Baseball Association will be hosting a fundraiser softball tournament next weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield

A 6:30pm organizational meeting will take place tomorrow at the pavilion adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The tournament will run from July 22 to 24.

Entrance fee is set at $150 per team. Checks are to be made payable to the SMLBA.

The SMLBA is encouraging all softball and baseball enthusiasts to support the tournament, as proceeds from the event will be used to help send a CNMI team to the 2001 Pacific Games in New Caledonia next month.

"The generosity and financial contributions from local supporters would be greatly appreciated," said tournament organizer Tony Rogolifoi.

For more information, contact Rogoilifoi at 288-5426. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Mieko: Quitting is not an option

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KAIKE TRIATHLON

CNMI triathlete Mieko Carey never considered quitting Sunday's race at Kaike Triathlon in Japan despite suffering from dehydration.

"I ran, walked and stopped, but kept on racing because of two things. First, I want to make my nieces' dream come true. Second, I thought of my Saipan supporters, who expected me to finish the race," Carey said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Carey's nieces, 7-year-old Yuna, and 3-year-old Nao—planed in to Tottori from Saitama to support their aunt and run with her to the finish line, while the triathlete's friends on Saipan checked on updates of the race through the internet. Mamiko Oshima-Berger even posted updates about Mieko's race in the unofficial NMITF group site.

"I couldn't stop because of my nieces, even if I have to walk, I must do it. I want them to fulfill their dreams. As for my Saipan friends, they gave me the power and inspiration to finish the race. I am representing Saipan, so I really wanted to make a good impression. " Carey added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Mieko Carey, left photo, poses with her family members after completing the Kaike Triathlon in Japan and cruises, right photo, along the flat road of the 145-kilometer bike leg of Sunday's race.

The 33-year-old triathlete finished the 3-kilometer swim, 145-km bike, and 42.195-km full marathon race in nine hours, 50 minutes, and 49 seconds, which is faster than her 2010 time of 9:56:38. She placed second overall in the women's division and 36th overall out of more than 800 finishers.

Carey was the third woman out of the water and then grabbed the lead in the bike and kept the top spot until the 15K mark of the run leg.

"I tried to drink water at every aid station, as I started feeling dehydrated. At the 15K point I stopped and asked where's the next aid station and a female runner passed me," Carey said.

The CNMI triathlete was talking of eventual women's champion Sha Li Dasong, who completed the race in 9:20:13.

Carey never recovered from thereon, as the gap between aid stations after the 15K point was long and her hands and legs began to numb after racing for more than eight hours under the 98 degree Fahrenheit weather.

"The weather cooked me," said Carey, who thanked Hotel Kasuitei, Taga, Inc, MVA, Asiana Airlines, IT&E, Brabu, and her husband, Kevin, for their support.

After the exhausting Kaike race, Carey slept for only four hours, as she had to wake up early to watch Japan battle the U.S. in the Women's World Cup finals.

"It was great to see Japan win the World Cup. They gave me a lot of motivation for XTERRA and all other triathlon races. We should never give up," she said.

Talavera leads PBA Classified Tournament winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five-time perfect gamer Robert Talavera was among the winners in the 2010-2011 Philippine Bowling Association/Budweiser Classified Tournament played in two weekends at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera ruled the centerpiece Class A event, besting six other keglers. He topped the qualifying roll-off on June 26 after carding 1,200 pinfalls in six games to automatically advance to the stepladder finals.

Joining Talavera in the playoffs were Richard Leong (1,101 pinfalls) and Raymond Zapanta (1,044), who placed second and third in the qualifier, respectively. The two bowlers went on to duel in the semis on July 3 with Leong winning, 186-174, to earn the right to meet Talavera in the finals.

In the championship match, Talavera needed only one game to win the Class A title, 188-166. Talavera was awarded a trophy and $350 cash during the event's banquet at SBA last Saturday, while Leong and Zapanta also went home with trophies and $250 and $150, respectively. Fourth placer Jon Eparwa was awarded $100, fifth placer Raul Dumapit received $65, and sixth placer Ron Epan pocketed $45.

Two other divisions had their qualifiers and stepladder finals with Melvin Malvar and Ronald Batac prevailing the Class B and C, respectively.

Malvar clinched the Class B plum after beating Andrew Sablan in the finals, 161-38. Malvar had a six-game series of 1,123 pinfalls to top the field of 10 bowlers and march into the finals. The next two finishers—Joe Sto. Domingo (1,110) and Sablan (1,016) collided for the slast finals berth with the latter winning, 219-190.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Class A champion Robert Talavera is flanked by runners-up Raymond Zapanta, left, and Richard Leong during the awards presentation for the 2010-2011 Philippine Bowling Association/Budweiser Classified Tournament last Saturday night at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Malvar went home with a trophy and $300, while Sablan and Sto. Domingo got $200 and $100, respectively. Cash prizes were also handed to Bernardo Paraiso, Atoy Banting, Tony David, Ramir de Leon, and Ron Cal for completing the Top 8.

Batac notched the Class C title against Rene Cariaso. Batac lost Game 1 of the finals, 179-182, but recovered in Game 2, 214-170, to win the championship and $250 cash prize. Cariaso and third placer Ben Aizon pocketed $150 and $80, respectively.

Batac moved into the finals after ruling the qualifier with his 1,036 pinfalls in six games. Cariaso also finished second in the qualifier with his 1,014 pinfalls, faced the third seeded Aizon (1,000) in the semis, and won, 213-174, to book the last finals ticket.

Completing the Top 8 were Elena Soll, Mel Regis, Yho Villavicencio, Resty Ancheta, and Gigi Zapanta.

Fighters wanted for Rites of Passage 11: Onra

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Derrick "El Piligro" Rangamar is seen here in a fighting stance before battling Chris "No Luv" Laayug in Trench Tech Promotion's Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions. Trench Tech will have ROP 11: Onra on Sept. 9.

BY WALTER CEPEDASUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred is inviting interested fighters to participate in Rites of Passage 11: Onra scheduled for September 9.

K-1 kick boxers, boxers, and mixed martial artists from both Saipan and Tinian teams are urged to register sooner to allow longer preparations leading up to the event, which may also feature Guam fighters.

"We received words from Guam fight teams about their interest in competing on Saipan for our Rites of Passage amateur event. I'm just getting the word out early to let all the local teams know about the healthy off-island competition. I want everyone to have time to train and prepare for the weigh-in and give myself time to make some attractive matchups," Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said in a telephone interview yesterday.

TRENCH TECH

Event organizers are especially looking for amateur level competitors to challenge a healthy list of potential Guam fighters. At least 15 MMA fighters from Team Guam Muay Thai K-1 and Team Counter Shot have expressed interest in making the trip over for Trench Tech's fourth unarmed combat event of the year.

Muay Thai K-1 fighters include bantamweights Justin Dizon and Daniel Dee (both 130-140lbs), lightweights Jared Martin and Matt Arruejo (both 145-155lbs), welterweight Robin Young (155-165lbs), and middleweights Rom Garganera II (165-180lbs), Jesse Bunang (all 165-185lbs), Aaron Vegamora and Jason Toves (both 175-185lbs). The above fighters are first-time amateur K-1 kick boxers.

Team Counter Shot's fighters include K-1 flyweights John Garcia (125lbs) and Jared Santos (120lbs), K-1 featherweight Vaughn Laguana (145lbs), lightweight boxer Brandon Payne (150lbs), MMA bantamweight Kevin Miranda (135lbs) and MMA light-heavyweight Mr. Matt (190lbs).

Trench Tech is also looking for a female boxer to square off against Guam's Gianna Sarusal of Team Don Mon Boxing Guam at 130lbs.

The venue of the event is still being determined.

For more information, contact Alvarez at (670)-483-4MMA (4662) or email trenchwarrior-saipan@yahoo.com to sign up. Competitors can also visit www.trenchtech.tv and submit a message, which will automatically be forwarded to Alvarez, or visit www.facebook.com/cukialvarez.

Red-hot Rangers win 11th straight

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Clarke finally prevails in British Open

SANDWICH, England (AP)—No matter how long it grows or even how quickly, the list of major champions from the tiny country of Northern Ireland just wouldn't feel complete without Darren Clarke.

He doesn't have the majestic swing of Rory McIlroy or the putting prowess of Graeme McDowell, the last two U.S. Open champions. He hasn't contended in a major for the last 10 years, wasn't even eligible for the last three majors and was no longer among the top 100 in the world.

AP

Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke smiles next to the Claret Jug trophy during a press conference after winning the British Open Golf Championship at Royal St George's golf course Sandwich, England, Sunday, July 17, 2011.

No matter.

Clarke's three-shot victory in the British Open was met with unending applause Sunday, the loudest saved for the closing ceremony when he was introduced as the champion golfer of the year.

More than that, Clarke is a man of the people.

"I'm a bit of a normal bloke, aren't I?" Clarke said, the claret jug at his side. "I like to go to the pub and have a pint, fly home, buy everybody a drink, just normal. There's not many airs and graces about me. I was a little bit more difficult to deal with in my earlier years, and I've mellowed some. Just a little bit. But I'm just a normal guy playing golf, having a bit of fun."

He was extraordinary at Royal St. George's.

A cigarette curled under his fingers as he barreled down the

See CLARKE on Page 26

AP

Japan players celebrate with the trophy following the final match between Japan and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday.

Japan gets first World Cup title

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Amid the sorrow that lingers throughout Japan, perhaps a little joy—courtesy of the determined women on its World Cup team.

They beat the Americans for the title in a riveting final Sunday night, 3-1 on penalty kicks, after coming from behind twice in a 2-2 tie. The star of the shootout was feisty goalkeeper Ayumi Kaihori, who made two brilliant saves in the shootout.

See JAPAN on Page 26

US can't pull off one last thriller

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The Americans stood on the field, watching in stunned silence.

This, they were certain, was their World Cup to win. Through every comeback, to every last second, they never doubted that, somehow, they would emerge as champions.

But the resilience that had carried them so far and captivated their country disappeared when they needed it most. Shannon Boxx, Carli Lloyd and Tobin Heath all failed to convert penalty kicks, and Japan stunned the Americans 3-1 in a shootout after the U.S. twice blew a lead.

"There are really no words," Abby Wambach said. "We were so close."

Minutes, in fact.

United States goalkeeper Hope Solo reacts after the US lost the final match between Japan and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Sunday.

AP

Wambach, whose clutch play against Brazil and France was the reason the Americans were in the final, scored on another header in the 104th minute. But in the 117th, five minutes before extra time was to expire, Homare Sawa flicked in a corner kick to tie the game and send it to penalties. It was the fifth goal of the tournament for the 32-year-old, playing in her fifth World Cup.

The Americans had beaten Brazil

See US on Page 26

Japan finds reason to celebrate with World Cup win

AP

Japanese fans celebrate with the Japanese flag in Tokyo's Shibuya district Monday morning, July 18, 2011 after Japan beat the United States in their final match at the Women's Soccer World Cup Sunday, July 17 in Frankfurt, Germany.

TOKYO (AP)—Japan took a welcome break from months of tragedy on Monday, basking in its unlikely victory over the United States in the Women's World Cup final.

Joyous fans decked out in the national team's dark blue uniforms hugged and sang in Tokyo as they watched their team lift the winner's trophy on live broadcasts from Germany.

It was a rare moment of joy for the Japan, which is still recovering from a killer earthquake and tsunami that struck March 11 and devastated its northeast coast. The disasters left nearly 23,000 dead or missing and caused an ongoing crisis at a nuclear power plant.

"This is a chance to forget the nuclear disaster and everything else, to just to unite and celebrate," said 22-year-old Toru Komatsu.

Japan became the first Asian nation to win the Women's World Cup, beating the U.S. 3-1 in a penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw. The team, small in stature compared to the Americans, fell behind twice but battled back to tie both times, their final goal coming with just three minutes left in extra time.

Bars and restaurants that showed the game in central Tokyo were packed for the kickoff at 3:45 a.m. local time Monday—a national holiday. At some venues dozens of fans stood outside in the street and peered in through the

See CELEBRATE on Page 26